

Hizbullah vows anti-Israel raids

BELFAST (R) — Lebanon's Hizbullah group, responding to threats of military action by Israel, vowed on Sunday its fighters would wage suicide raids on Israeli targets worldwide. "I say to all the enemy's leaders that Islam... the Islam of struggle and martyrdom, is coming to you Jews in South Lebanon, Palestine and all over the world. It will vanquish you," Hizbullah chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said. He was speaking at the funeral of four guerrillas killed in a Dec. 11 clash in Israel's occupation zone of South Lebanon in which one Israeli soldier died. "Our struggle can reach any place where the enemy is found," Sheikh Nasrallah's deputy, Sheikh Na'eem Qassem, said at a similar rally in the South Lebanon town of Nabatayeh, facing the Israeli-held border zone. Four days after the clash, Israel's army chief Ehud Barak said the Israeli military was free to strike at Hizbullah anywhere it wanted in Lebanon, regardless of the effect on Middle East peace talks. "We promise no immunity to Hizbullah anywhere throughout Lebanon, and what we need to do, we will do," General Barak said.

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Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1994

Iraq ban should be eased — Cheysson

BAGHDAD (R) — Former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, fresh from talks with President Saddam Hussein, said on Sunday he believed U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 should now be eased.

"I feel lifting or suspension of sanctions is in view."

"To isolate Iraq from the rest of the world represents a danger to peace. Humiliating Iraq gives a chance to fanatics in other parts of the world," he told a news conference.

He said Iraq was determined to abide by U.N. resolutions.

Also on Sunday, Iraq said it was discussing with France steps needed to bring about an easing or lifting of the crippling sanctions, which have cost it an estimated \$50 billion in lost oil revenue alone.

Baghdad newspapers, quoting an Iraqi News Agency report from Paris, said Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Riday al Qaisi was on a visit to France and had met senior French foreign ministry officials.

The two sides agreed to continue work at the Security Council in line with a co-ordinated plan with specific steps, Mr. Qaisi said, without elaborating.

Mr. Cheysson, France's foreign minister from 1981-1985, said he was not in any official capacity in Iraq but had met French officials before coming to Baghdad and believed they would be interested in the outcome of his visit.

"It (visit) gave me the

chance to have confirmation of what I really knew and in particular the determination of the Iraqi authorities, the president and government to abide by the resolutions of the Security Council. It was confirmed to me and I have noted that with gratitude," said Mr. Cheysson, who met President Saddam on Saturday and had long discussions with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz after his arrival on Friday.

He said he did not bring up a U.N. report last week which said Iraq is still hiding information on its past weapons programmes, failing to declare data on radar equipment or biological research until confronted with evidence.

Asked whether France's backing for an easing of the oil embargo was merely for economic interests, he said: "There is no shame in having economic interests in Iraq. You think Americans have no economic interest in Iraq?"

"I personally have always been against embargoes. I think an embargo adds suffering to sufferings of the population in particular the weakest part of the population, children, poor people and this at times takes a criminal nature," he said.

The Security Council is scheduled to hold its next periodic review of Iraq sanctions on Jan. 17 and diplomats said Iraq was hoping for a favourable hearing after it last month reorganised Kuwait within established by a U.N. commission.

"It (visit) gave me the



TUNISIAN VICTORY: Players of Esperance of Tunisia hold aloft the cup after they beat 3-1 Zamalek of Egypt in the second leg of the African Champions Cup in Cairo on Saturday. From left to right, president of the club Slim Chiboub, goalie Omer, captain Ben Naj and Mahjoub (AFP photo)

Iran says it cannot be deprived of nuclear ability

NICOSIA (AP) — The head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council said Sunday that Iran supports the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and cannot be deprived of using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, Iranian Television reported. "The officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have repeatedly said that Iran does not seek nuclear and atomic weapons and has no wish to make a non-peaceful use of atomic energy," Hasan Ru-

whani said. "For this reason, the details of the NPT are very important to use and are closely linked to our national security and our country's growth and development," said Mr. Ruwhani, who is also deputy parliament speaker.

The United States claims that Iran, a signatory of the NPT, is engaged in a clandestine

drive to acquire nuclear weapons as part of a major arms buildup that will pose a threat to the region and beyond.

Iran has repeatedly denied that, saying its nascent nuclear programme is aimed at generating electricity to meet rapidly growing demand among its 60 million population and help revive its moribund economy.

Washington is pressing its allies to limit the sale of advanced technology, including equipment with military applications, to the Islamic republic.

Last year, India and the Czech Republic among other states, bowed to U.S. pressure not to sell nuclear technology to Tehran. But the Americans believe that Iran is seeking help from cash-strapped Russia.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director James

Woolsey said in September that Iran is "eight to 10 years away" from building nuclear weapons" and that help from the outside will be critical in reaching that time table.

Mr. Ruwhani, addressing a Tehran seminar attended by civil officials, researchers, university students and lecturers, stressed: "The Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be deprived of the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the wishes of the USA."

The state-run television, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mr. Ruwhani as saying that due to the presence of U.S. warships with nuclear weapons in the Gulf region and the proximity of nuclear weapons in neighbouring countries — a reference to Israel and Pakistan — Iran has "more reason than most" to be worried about nuclear proliferation.

He called for strict adherence to the NPT by all countries and powers, the television said.

Russian experts are completing technical studies on completing a nuclear power plant at Bushehr, on Iran's northern Gulf coast, according to the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran.

The plant's two 1,200-megawatt reactors were partly built by a German firm before the 1979 revolution.

Work was abandoned on the plant during the 1980-88 war with Iraq, when it was bombed several times.

China has said it will provide Iran with at least one 300-megawatt nuclear reactor.

Before the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was toppled in 1979, he had embarked on a plan to build 20 nuclear reactors for power generation.

Scant hopes for Turkey's democratisation drive

ANKARA (R) — Ankara, under fire by Europe for jailing eight Kurdish deputies, promises a democratisation drive, but Turkish intellectuels say the government's promises are empty.

"A democratisation package exists as a kind of fantasy," Oral Calislar, a writer and journalist sentenced to jail for interviewing Kurdish guerrilla leaders, said at the weekend.

"But there is not the smallest chance — I see absolutely no proof at all — that democratisation will succeed. All the promises that (Prime Minister Tansu) Ciller has given to European leaders are to appease them," he added.

The increase is mainly explained by the lifting of some Egyptian administrative red-tape, and the planned adoption of law against double taxation should also help boost relations.

Mr. Weizman will discuss cooperation in fighting terrorism, as well as closer links in telecommunications, tourism and culture, the head of his office, Arie Shumer, said.

In the past weeks the Israeli press has criticised the "hostile attitude" of the main Egyptian media and the constant refusal by labour unions and professional groups to normalise ties with their Israeli counterparts.

"We have to become more democratic," said Sahri Yavuz, head of the parliamentary human rights inquiry commission.

"Europe is pushing us into isolation, our relations are at

democratisation has not taken place," said Mr. Yavuz, deputy for the Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP).

The SHP, junior partners in the ruling coalition with Ms. Ciller's True Path Party (DYP), was responsible for the 1991 birth of the so-called "democratisation package," which promises all kinds of freedom from union rights for civil servants to overhauling Turkey's military era constitution.

But despite SHP threats to pull out from the coalition if the package's passage is not sped up, only a couple of laws of the proposed 61 have been adopted.

Rightists and Islamists have strongly challenged long-awaited changes to Turkey's notorious anti-terror law, under which Mr. Calislar, the deputies and hundreds of others were convicted.

"They talk of terror, but unless the government changes the 1980 military constitution, it is simply patching up bad laws," said an Istanbul lawyer, who declined to be named. "The constitution hinders international human rights rules."

But constitutional changes, much-discussed few months back, seem a long way off and many now believe the package has become a huge white elephant because of an

obsessive focus on terror.

"All work has been devoted to the prevention of terrorism act, but the public has been given the impression a wide-ranging survey of the freedom of thought is taking place," Sibel Bar, an Istanbul lawyer, who writes for the Islamic daily Zaman.

Ms. Ciller this month visited leaders of Islamic sects to win them over, but media reports suggested they were unconvinced.

Islamists and secularists have also charged that the law is vague enough for judges to manipulate and condemn anyone whose ideas they do not like.

"So, although I am not terrorist, I have to pay attention to the anti-terror law," said Aladdin Kaya, owner of Zaman.

Turkey has been battling separatist Kurdish guerrillas for the past 10 years. It was hit by waves of leftist and religious attacks before that. More than 13,000 people have been killed since the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) launched its bloody inde-

pendence campaign in the largely Kurdish southeast of the country in 1984.

Turkey's prevention of terrorism act was introduced in 1991 to replace wider legislation clamping down on left-wing and religious acts and propaganda against the state.

The proposed changes include a definition of terror that refers to a constitutional clause on the secular nature of the state and loyalty to its secular founder Kemal Ataturk.

Islamic circles say that will mean people can be put in jail simply for saying parts of the Koran are true.

"It may enable the release of some people imprisoned for thought crimes, while an important part of the population, that is devout Muslims, become liable to be jailed," said Nuh Gonultas, who writes for the Islamic daily Zaman.

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Islamists and secularists have also charged that the law is vague enough for judges to manipulate and condemn anyone whose ideas they do not like.

"So, although I am not terrorist, I have to pay attention to the anti-terror law," said Aladdin Kaya, owner of Zaman.

Turkey has been battling separatist Kurdish guerrillas for the past 10 years. It was hit by waves of leftist and religious attacks before that. More than 13,000 people have been killed since the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) launched its bloody inde-

pendence campaign in the largely Kurdish southeast of the country in 1984.

Turkey's prevention of terrorism act was introduced in 1991 to replace wider legislation clamping down on left-wing and religious acts and propaganda against the state.

The proposed changes include a definition of terror that refers to a constitutional clause on the secular nature of the state and loyalty to its secular founder Kemal Ataturk.

Islamic circles say that will mean people can be put in jail simply for saying parts of the Koran are true.

"It may enable the release of some people imprisoned for thought crimes, while an important part of the population, that is devout Muslims, become liable to be jailed," said Nuh Gonultas, who writes for the Islamic daily Zaman.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Militants kill 'collaborator' in Egypt

MINYA, Egypt (AFP) — Islamic militants shot dead a peasant they suspected of collaborating with the police and wounded his son in the Mallawi region of southern Egypt on Saturday, police said. The two gunmen from the Al Gamaa Al Islamiya group struck at the man's home in the village of Tanda, 300 kilometres south of Cairo. His son was seriously wounded as he tried to stop them escaping. Police recently found a hit list of 150 policemen and 150 "collaborators" drawn up by the militants, although it was not known if the dead man, Nashed Sadek, was among them. He was targeted for giving police information which had led to the arrest of Gamaa militants in the Mallawi region. A total of 534 people have died since fundamentalists launched their campaign against the government in March 1992.

800 couples marry in mass wedding in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Eight hundred cash-strapped couples got married Saturday in a mass wedding organised by an Iranian charity in seven towns including Tehran. The Ayatollah Khomeini Aid Committee, a charity set up after Iran's 1979 revolution to help poor families, organised several hundred weddings a year on religious holidays. In November the association organised the joint wedding of 2,500 couples in the same day. Joint marriages are cheaper than traditional ceremonies and have been held regularly in Iran since the revolution. A traditional ceremony costs at least five million rials (2,000 U.S. dollars), three to four times the average annual salary of a labourer or a low-ranking official. Dowries are an extra 10 million rials. Saturday was the anniversary of the birth of Ali, the son-in-law and successor to Mohammad and the first Shiite Muslim leader.

U.N. to keep close watch on pyramids

BANGKOK (AFP) — The United Nations' World Heritage Committee will continue to "monitor closely" an Egyptian highway project to ensure that Cairo diverts the road from the Great Pyramids, a U.N. official said here Sunday. Richard Englehart, Bangkok director of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), said that the Egyptian authorities had assured the committee early Sunday that the pyramids would not be threatened. "They said that they had ordered the diversion of the project already," Mr. Englehart told AFP. "Of course, it will be part of our job to monitor it closely for the next year," he added. The highway project, discussed early Sunday, was the most sensitive item on the agenda of this year's gathering, held at the southern Thai resort island of Phuket. Last week, excavators discovered a tomb and artifacts along the road's path. By Thursday, President Hosni Mubarak announced that no measures would be taken on the motorway without his "personal approval." UNESCO has been openly critical of the project, while engineers have complained that a diversion would undercut the purpose of a highway.

Kuwaiti jailed for "collaborating" with Iraq

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti police officer has been sentenced to life imprisonment for collaborating with Iraqi secret services during the 1990-1991 occupation of the emirate, legal officials told AFP Sunday. Khalid Sabah Al Khalidi, 40, was found guilty after a three-year trial before the state security court here, a court official said. Mr. Khalidi faced several charges including joining the Iraqi popular army, a militia active during the seven-month occupation, and taking regular wages from the Iraqis, the official added. He also criticised Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah in public, which is forbidden under the Kuwaiti constitution. The official said the defendant denied all charges, but more than 20 witnesses testified before the court that he was guilty.

2,500-year-old sin prevents marriage

TEL AVIV (AFP) — When Massud Cohen fell in love with Chochana Haddad and asked for her hand in marriage, he had no idea one of her distant ancestors had committed a sin against Jewish law 2,500 years ago. But Israel's high rabbinic court has remembered and has prevented the couple from marrying for 10 years, the Yediot Aharonot daily reported Sunday. In 580 B.C. Chochana's erring relative, known as a "Cohen" or priest in Hebrew, left the promised land to live on the island of Djerba in Tunisia. He married a divorcee, so breaking a Jewish law on priests which was then in turn imposed on all his descendants. As a result the rabbi in Galilee in northern Israel has ruled that Chochana, a spinster, cannot marry 45-year-old Massud because he is divorced. The couple has tried to find more forgiving rabbis to marry them but to no avail. The high rabbi has told them their relationship can never be recognised in law and that their child born a short time ago will remain illegitimate.

Sudan calls for help over refugee crisis

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A senior Sudanese official called Sunday on Arab and Islamic countries to help feed more than one million refugees who are overburdening the country's weak economy. Commissioner for Refugees Ihsan Al Ghabsi told the opening session of a three-day national conference on refugees here that Sudan desperately needs help from abroad to meet the refugees' needs in the light of cuts in international aid. Ms. Ghabsi said most of the refugees were from Muslim countries, and that Arab and Islamic countries that had failed to provide Sudan with aid over the last three decades should play a role in easing the crisis. "We appeal to the Arab League and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to give more attention to the plight of refugees in the Sudan," she told the conference. According to the country's commission for refugees, Sudan is currently home to 1,042,620 refugees, more than three quarters of whom are from Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:45 Khartoum (SD)
09:35 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:45 Ibadat (IV)
17:05 Kies (AL)
17:50 Petros (PA)
18:15 Dubai (EK)
23:10 London (BA)
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

Sanaa (YV)
Kiev (EV)
Dubai (PK)
Amsterdam (KL)
London (BA)

Market Prices

Upper/lower price in £/s per kg

Apple	70s/ 60s
Banana	40s/ 30s
Milk (Aukanhaini)	180s/ 150s
Cabbage	180s/ 150s
Carrot	200s/ 180s
Onion	45s/ 30s
Tomato (large)	340s/ 280s
Tomato (small)	400s/ 300s
Cucumbers (large)	400s/ 300s
Cucumbers (small)	300s/ 200s
Eggplant	300s/ 200s
Coriander	180s/ 150s
Grape Fruits	180s/ 150s
Lemon	30s/ 20s
Marrow (large)	340s/ 280s
Marrow (small)	320s/ 200s
Chives (green)	340s/



His Majesty Queen Noor Sunday views a display of home furnishings at the new headquarters of the Jordan River Designs Project. To the Queen's left is Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda (Petra photo)

Queen inaugurates headquarters of Jordan River Designs Project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday inaugurated the new headquarters and showroom for the Jordan River Designs, Save the Children's urban income-generating project, which provides training and jobs to underprivileged women in Al-Mahatta and Al-Naif suburbs of Amman, a Royal Court statement said.

Established in 1987, the Jordan River Designs Project gives needy women skills to revive traditional Jordanian handicrafts while providing them with income to raise their standard of living.

Geared towards self-reliance and grass roots participation, the project provides these women with interest-free loans to set up small projects and market their own products. New showroom, said the statement, is a stone house built in 1936, which was restored by architect Ammar Khammash in its traditional style and spirit.

Queen Noor toured the showroom and viewed the products which include bed covers, pillows, olive oil soap, leather bags and traditional dolls, the statement said.

She also visited the Bani Hamida House and viewed its autumn collection, it said. Queen Noor was received by Mark Edington, Save the Children Middle East Area director and Jordan Field Office Director and Hana Shahim, Jordan River Designs Project manager.

Also present at the event were Ambassador of Japan Yuji Ikeda, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Director William T. Oliver, Senator Leila Sharaf and local businesspersons.

The renovation was financed with an allocation of U.S. \$39,896 from the government of Japan within the framework of the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GAGP), a Japanese embassy statement said.

According to the USAID spokesperson, the agency has over the past five years granted the Jordan River Designs Project a total of \$355,000.

Marketing and currently markets their products in JDTC tourist shops in Petra, the statement said.

Queen Noor invited Save the Children to Jordan to provide technical assistance and training to the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation's (NHF) National Handicrafts Project.

Since then, both Bani Hamida Weaving Project and Jordan River Designs have become independent.

The Queen supports their activities and promotes their products nationally and internationally.

NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC) cooperated in the past with Jordan River Designs in product development and export.

Queen Noor viewed the products which include bed covers, pillows, olive oil soap, leather bags and traditional dolls, the statement said.

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Premier receives outgoing Pakistani envoy, new Norwegian ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday received at his office Pakistani Ambassador Tariq Khan Afzal who paid a courtesy visit upon the occasion of his end of his tour of duty in the Kingdom.

Dr. Majali expressed Jordan's appreciation to Mr. Afzal for his efforts throughout his five-year tenure here in helping to advance relations between Jordan and

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ANC weaknesses under spotlight

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa (AFP) — Serious problems in the ruling African National Congress could hamper its ability to govern effectively, a report released at the ANC's three-yearly conference here Sunday says.

The hard-hitting report, by ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa, says the party lacks decisive leadership, has a grave shortage of funds and is out of touch with its grassroots supporters.

Among the problems is the "continual reliance" on ANC President Nelson Mandela to do the organising.

The report was to be debated behind closed doors Sunday by some 2,700 delegates to the conference, the ANC's 49th since it was formed in this Orange Free State provincial capital in 1912.

The meeting also marks the first ANC thinktank since

it swept to power in historic all-race elections in April.

"Despite our immense suc-

cess in the election, we have

serious shortcomings at many levels," Mr. Ramaphosa says in the report.

He says ANC leaders are indecisive, fail to respond promptly to crises and are reluctant to enforce discipline.

Senior officials are over-loaded with work, he adds, while the ANC's affirmative action policy relating to women has failed.

"There is an over-reliance on a few key women leaders," Mr. Ramaphosa says.

The problem has been exacerbated by key ANC members moving into government positions.

In his opening address to the conference Saturday, Mr. Mandela was sharply critical of ANC organisation and finances.

Time chooses Pope as Man of the Year

NEW YORK (R) — Time magazine has announced it had selected Pope John Paul II as its Man of the Year saying he had "forcefully set forth his vision of the good life and urged the world to follow it."

The publication said he had pursued his vision in a year when many lamented a decline in moral values and used the influence of his office to speak out and further his aims.

"For such rectitude — or recklessness as his detractors would have it — he is Time magazine's 1994 Man of the Year."

Few of his predecessors over the past 2,000 years have spoken from it as often and as forcefully as he," the magazine said.

"Ours was not a planned entry into government," Mr. Mandela said. "We were disorganized and behaved in a manner that could have endangered the revolution."

He said the party's financial state was a "matter of serious concern" and called for the elimination of wastage and an end to the "lack of financial discipline."

Mr. Ramaphosa's report embroiders on the theme, bemoaning the poor state of organisation in branches and regions and complaining of fiscal indiscretions.

It says sources of finance have dried up since the election and that the ANC Youth and Women's Leagues "do not adhere to financial controls."

"Unless we address these problems, we will continue sliding into the low morale in which some of our militants are," he says, referring to disillusioned ANC soldiers

who have deserted the South African National Defence Force in droves.

Unless branches are re-suscitated and problems tackled, Mr. Ramaphosa adds, the ANC will battle to win municipal elections due at the end of 1995.

According to delegates, Mr. Ramaphosa received thunderous applause when he presented the report.

The conference is expected to spend Sunday debating the report before tackling 10 other items on the agenda, including the preparation of South Africa's final constitution, the economy, the rampant crime ravaging the country and the role of women.

During the four-day conference, which has as its theme "From Resistance to Reconstruction and National Building," the ANC will also renew its 50-member Executive Committee.

Beijing urges British cooperation on Hong Kong pact's anniversary

BEIJING (AFP) — China urged Britain Sunday to set aside disputes and cooperate on Hong Kong's future ahead of the 10th anniversary of an historic pact governing the prosperous colony's return to Chinese rule in 1997.

The officials also reiterated vows to uphold the "one country, two systems" principle allowing Hong Kong to retain its freewheeling capitalist economy, despite bitter rows with London over democratic reforms and other issues.

Vice Premier Qian Qichen, in a speech commemorating the Joint Declaration of Dec. 19, 1984, said "it is my sincere hope that the two countries will reduce their conflicts, increase mutual trust and enhance cooperation."

"I believe that China and Britain will be able to cooperate on this fundamental issue. But that does not mean that there will be no conflicts or

problems," said Mr. Qian, who is also foreign minister.

The official Xinhua News Agency quoted him as saying that Sino-British cooperation was an "important factor" for a smooth transition "but the most important thing is to rely on our own forces."

The Joint Declaration guarantees continuity in Hong Kong for another 50 years under the so-called Special Administrative Region (SAR).

But efforts by Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten to introduce democratic reforms to the colony before 1997 have inflamed Beijing, leading to the rupture of negotiations on the future of Hong Kong.

China has since announced that all political structures in the colony will be dismantled after the handover and unilaterally created a committee charged with installing the future Hong Kong adminis-

trative system.

Lu Ping, Beijing's highest official in charge of Hong Kong and Macau, a Portuguese colony reverting to Chinese rule in 1999, said that the "one country, two systems" idea was "China's long-term state policy," not an expedient measure.

He criticised London for departing from the spirit of the Joint Declaration, Xinhua said, but welcomed its pledges of cooperation.

Disputes over Hong Kong's new airport and other infrastructure projects spanning the handover have also soured ties between Beijing and London.

The 31st meeting of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group (JLG) ended in London Friday with British efforts to gain China's approval of contracts for a huge container terminal looking hopelessly stalled.

Rwanda slows plan to close camps

KIGALI (R) — The Rwandan government appears to have accepted U.N. pressure to delay its plans to close all refugee camps in the southwest of the country by the end of December.

This follows a large-scale operation by the United Nations last week to search two of the camps to round up militants who have been terrorising the refugees there.

The operation produced few results, apparently because the militants had fled before the U.N. sweep began.

The United Nations' spe-

cial representative in Rwanda, Ambassador Shaharyar Khan, said in Kigali Sunday that the government would no longer insist on the closure of the camps by the end of the year. Instead they had agreed to a two-month programme, as proposed by the United Nations.

Mr. Khan told Reuters last week's operation aimed to halt an increase in violence in the camps which had been in danger of falling into the pattern of refugee camps around Goma, in neighbouring Zaire, where extremists rule through terror.

He said the aim had not been to persuade the government to delay what the United Nations regarded as a hurried closure plan.

But he welcomed the Rwanda government's acceptance of Operation Return — the United Nation's gradual closure programme.

The government had said it wanted to close down the camps by the end of the year to end a growing security problem.

The camps were set up in May and June to provide

shelter for fleeing Hutus as the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) stepped up its military campaign against the Hutu-led government following genocide killings of Tutsis in April.

Hundreds of thousands took shelter in a safe zone established by French troops. Despite the subsequent withdrawal of the French force, most of the Hutus stayed in the camps, fearing RPF vengeance for the slaughter of Tutsis and moderate Hutus that followed the assassination of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana.

The forced closure of other camps in the former safe zone had drawn international criticism. Mr. Khan said the government realised it should not risk attracting more opprobrium from a world still suspicious of the new rulers.

Over 1,500 U.N. peacekeepers marched into Kibeho and Ndago early last Wednesday hoping to seize thugs terrorising the estimated 140,000 inhabitants.

A day-long search netted 47 suspects — four were later released through lack of evidence — and more than 1,300 weapons, mainly machetes and other blades, a poor haul for such a large operation.

None of the grenades and small arms sighted earlier in the camp were seized, and the United Nations admits the militant ringleaders had bolted before the peacekeepers went in.

"The operation was too big to have the benefit of surprise," Mr. Khan told Reuters. "If we do another sweep it should be on a smaller scale to maintain the element of surprise."

"But even if the gang lead-

ers got away, the camps are now free of their influence. If they go to other camps then we will clear them out."

Meanwhile, a batch of 120 Japanese soldiers returned home Sunday after a three-month humanitarian mission in Rwanda, Japan's first military-supported aid operation under national command since World War II.

Another contingent of 140 troops are due to leave the Zairean town of Goma — where they have assisted Rwandan refugees — Tuesday and will arrive in Japan Friday officials here said.

Their mission had been defined as strictly humanitarian, mainly providing support for a vaccination programme and water supply, as Japan's post-World War II constitution bans the use of force in settling international conflicts.

Japan previously sent military personnel to Cambodia and Mozambique, but both operations were under the auspices of the United Nations.

They had little overseas experience, completed their mission amid fears of contagious diseases and security problems as well as the possibility of volcanic eruptions.

"I feel relieved after com-

ing back safe and sound," 38-year-old medic Norio Fukuda told reporters after the 120-strong team arrived at Tokyo's Narita International Airport on a commercial flight.

"I was shocked to see a boy, who looked as old as my own son, carrying his younger brother on his back," he said.

"But even if the gang lead-

Clinton may not have been target of shots

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. officials said Saturday that the bullets found on the White House grounds after gunfire erupted near the mansion may not have been aimed at President Bill Clinton.

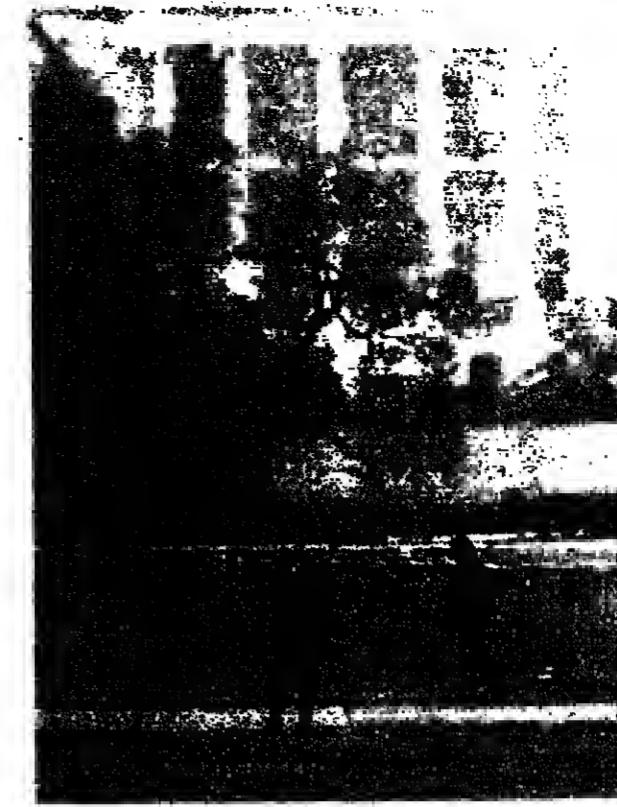
Up to six shots, most likely from a semi-automatic handgun, were fired from the nearby Ellipse, a grassy field across the street from the rear of the White House, in the pre-dawn hours Saturday, according to law enforcement officials.

Two spent 9mm bullets, one of which was found on the first-floor balcony and the other on a driveway, were later recovered.

Secret Service spokesman Carl Meyer said the bullets were found in good shape, indicating they had travelled some distance and not hit anything.

Law enforcement officials said four spent 9mm bullets, believed to have been fired from the same weapon, were recovered in good condition, indicating to investigators that they had travelled a long distance.

One round landed on the first-floor balcony of the White House, one floor below the family living quarters, and another was found on the South Lawn driveway, said Secret Service spokes-



Two uniformed U.S. Secret Service agents search the grounds behind the White House with metal detectors for evidence after shots were fired at the White House. Witnesses reported hearing four to six shots fired from the Ellipse and one bullet was found on the grounds near the South Portico (AP photo)

man Dave Adams.

The Washington Post, quoting unidentified sources, said another penetrated a window of the state dining room on the first floor.

Vice President Al Gore said it could well be that the shots were not directed at Mr. Clinton or his family, who were asleep in the White House at the time.

"I received a briefing that indicated a distinct possibility that it was not in any way

Rao warns of purge in ruling party

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has warned of a purge to revitalise the ruling Congress Party, reeling under election losses inflicted by corruption charges, dissidence and infighting, news reports said Sunday.

Under the new cabinet list, the government retains 201 seats in the House, out of a total of 360.

The Charkha inherits 14 cabinet seats, replacing the New Aspiration Party (NAP) which split from the coalition.

There were no deviations from the proposed reshuffle list, in which the Democrats shifted four of their own seats.

As expected, Sajjan Kachoraprasart, the secretary-general of Mr. Charkha's Democratic Party, received the powerful interior minister post, replacing Chaowalit Yongchayudh.

He criticised London for

departing from the spirit of the Joint Declaration, Xinhua said, but welcomed its pledges of cooperation.

Disputes over Hong Kong's new airport and other infrastructure projects spanning the handover have also soured ties between Beijing and London.

The 31st meeting of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group (JLG) ended in London Friday with British efforts to gain China's approval of contracts for a huge container terminal looking hopelessly stalled.

But Mr. Charkha's Democrats managed a last-minute compromise with the Charkha Party in what political observers called a marriage of convenience.

Congress deputies say Mr. Rao is waiting for the end of the current parliament session later this week before beginning a purge because parliamentary custom demands that reshuffles are not made when a session is on.

Mr. Rao is being embarras-

sed by his Food Minister Kalp Nath Rai after an investigation report blamed Mr. Rai and government agencies last week for mismanaging

the nation's sugar buffer, resulting in a rise in home and world prices.

Mr. Rao swears loyalty and has offered to quit but simultaneously says he is innocent and will defend himself.

Two other aides, Health Minister B. Shankaranand and Junior Rural Development Minister Rameshwar Thakur, received critical remarks from a parliamentary committee that probed a \$1.2-billion securities scandal that surfaced in 1992.

The opposition has been

baying for their heads, and that of Mr. Rao.

Civil Supplies Minister A.K. Antony resigned last week after a parliamentary statement identified him as having erred in the management of sugar prices.

His resignation has not been accepted officially, but Mr. Rao has been hinting that others follow suit.

Mr. Rao has often been accused of soft-pedalling political issues within the party and outside, even as he unleashed radical economic changes.

"Unless responsibility is fixed and heads roll, the credibility of the government and the democratic system is at stake," Chandrasekhar Yadav of the Socialist Santa Party told Reuters.

Mr. Rao is being embarrass-

ed by his Food Minister Kalp Nath Rai after an investigation report blamed Mr. Rai and government agencies last week for mismanaging

works for Bill Clinton," said Cal Mackenzie, a Cabilio College political analyst. "He's going to end up in a position of either having to sign a bill that has 'Republican' stamped all over it, or vetoing a bill because it's too expensive and he has to do the responsible thing."

Political analysts of all stripes said that while Mr. Clinton was in difficult straits, it was too early to write him off.

James MacGregor Burns, a noted historian and biographer of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, said the occupant of the Oval Office "always has a lot of resources to fall back on."

"The president has his ability to use the bully pulpit he can make and he has the veto," he said.

If history repeats itself, the 1996 presidential election will be a cliffhanger — that's what happened after lopsided midterm elections shocked and dismayed the party in control of the White House in 1946, 1958, 1966 and 1974.

And Mr. Burns sees a stand-off between Clinton and the new Republican majority in Congress in the meantime.

"Nobody is going to control the agenda. We're going to have a lot more deadlock, a lot more gridlock," he said.

"I don't know how that

Claudia Schiffer wants to jog with Clinton

BONN (R) — German supermodel Claudia Schiffer wants to go jogging with U.S. President Bill Clinton, market mover star Paul Newman's barbecue sauce and stroll through an art gallery with gun-swinging action hero Sylvester Stallone. Leaving out her plans for a German television chat show she is due to start hosting in the spring, Schiffer said in an interview that she would not bore viewers with ordinary question and answer sessions.

"Instead of having an ordinary interview with Paul Newman, I would cook with him," she told the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* daily. "I would ask Bill Clinton questions while we jog. Sylvester Stallone is very interested in art, so I could browse through an art gallery with him," Schiffer, whose modelling career began at 17, said

World News



AWAITING THE RUSSIANS: Chechen rebels stand in a snowy, outdoor setting, possibly awaiting Russian troops.

Strike cripples Karachi; 6 killed

KARACHI (AFP) — Six people died and 15 were wounded as state troops and other gunmen opened fire Sunday during a strike here by a militant sectarian party that crippled Pakistan's troubled commercial capital, witnesses said.

The paramilitary troops opened fire in a predominantly Shiite residential area, leaving three dead and at least five injured, witnesses and hospital sources said. It was not immediately clear why the Rangers fired.

Three others were killed

and at least 10 people were injured when gunmen fired from moving cars to force people off the roads, witnesses said.

The strike was called by the Sunni Moslim group Sipah-E-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) to protest the failure by police to arrest the killers of eight people, including the city chief of SSP, in a mosque attack on Dec. 7.

All major markets and bazaars remained closed and traffic on the streets was negligible.

A second strike was called

by Transporters Association to protest the burning of more than three dozen vehicles during a wave of violence here over the past few days.

A few state-owned buses on the streets, but most offices reported low attendance. Sunday is a working day in Karachi.

The Karachi Stock Exchange closed early as there was no trading on the floor, brokers said.

Port activity was also affected. Less than five per cent of the port and customs staff were present

U.S. officials said it was

Berlusconi's political life on the line

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's political life was on the line Sunday as he prepared to face three no-confidence motions planned by the opposition and a major coalition later in the week.

Political commentators were pessimistic about Mr. Berlusconi's future, saying the numbers were stacked against him, but worried about what could replace his government if he lost.

The main threat to Mr. Berlusconi comes from the federalist Northern League, government party, which will present its motion together with the centrist opposition Popular Party.

The League has some 105 of the coalition's 366 seats in the 630-member Chamber of Deputies (lower house).

It can also count on most of the opposition, including the Democratic Party of the left (PDS), which, in coordination with the League, will present its own motion.

"We've done it. The little dictator will fall on Thursday," La Repubblica newspaper quoted League leader Umberto Bossi as saying after he decided to present the motion.

"A man with no confidence," was the headline in La Voce newspaper over a picture of Berlusconi, his head inclined and face hidden by two clenched fists.

The most likely day for the vote is Thursday, after the 1995 budget is passed and a

debate on Mr. Berlusconi's coalition is held.

For good measure, the Marxist Communists' reformation party has announced a no-confidence vote in the Senate (upper house).

The motions are the crowning of the league's bid to topple billionaire Berlusconi, who誓 to power at the head of a conservative "Freedom Alliance" in general elections last March.

They follow months of argument between the League and the two other main coalition members, Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia (G.O. Italy) and the hard right national alliance.

Mr. Berlusconi's credibility has been further undermined by an ongoing row with Milan magistrates who are investigating him over allegations of corruption he denies.

Mr. Berlusconi has branded the moves to oust him as a swindle. He says there must be new elections if he is felled.

His most loyal ally, National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini, was far from optimistic about the outcome of the vote.

"Overcoming those challenges will be difficult," he told Corriere Della Sera newspaper. "But it will be equally hard to set up a new majority in parliament and those who are preparing the motions are cranking up the machinery for new elections."

A Corriere editorial said

an alternative government backed by the League and the opposition would have no choice but to pass swift changes to the electoral system and call new polls.

"You cannot have a situation in which the losers (of the elections) take the winners' place in government," it said.

On Paper, the league has the numbers to topple Mr. Berlusconi.

But the party is clearly divided over how to vote and whether to follow Mr. Bossi's call for a constituent government backed by the left, centre and centre.

Another question hangs over the exact timing of the vote and how many motions deputies will end up pronouncing on.

Parliament must pass the 1995 budget before the votes can take place. The budget was due to clear the Senate Saturday night and return Monday to the Chamber for approval by Wednesday.

But the Senate's approval has been delayed and is now expected at midday (1100 GMT) Monday. That means the budget could get to the Chamber one day late.

Mr. Berlusconi had called an effective vote of confidence on his coalition after a debate which will begin Wednesday and may continue the next day. But it was unclear if that would still be held now that so many no-confidence motions are in the pipeline.

N. Korea promises U.S. details on helicopter

SEOUL (R) — North Korea Sunday promises the U.S.-led United Nations command it would provide details on the two American pilots whose helicopter was forced down to the Communist state, the command said.

The promise, given in a meeting between representatives of the command and the North Korean army at the Korean border village of Panmunjom, coincided with U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson's meeting with top Communist officials in Pyongyang.

The (North) Korean People's Army representatives to Panmunjom said information concerning the incident, including the condition and location of the two pilots, will be made available once the KPA has completed its investigation into the incident, a command statement said.

A U.S. military spokesman said another meeting has been scheduled for Monday.

"A meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow but right now no time is known," he said.

The United States has been pressuring North Korea for details on the OH-58 helicopter and the pilots since shortly after it went down three to four miles (four to seven kilometres) north of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in the eastern sector of the Korean border Saturday morning.

U.S. officials said it was

unclear whether the unarmed craft, which they say strayed over the border on a routine training mission, made an emergency landing or was shot down.

North Korea Sunday repeated a statement that it shot down a U.S. helicopter intruding into its territory and that the pilots were being questioned about the intrusion.

Democratic Representative Richardson, who arrived in Pyongyang shortly after the incident on a previous scheduled trip, had talks with Foreign Minister Kim Yong-Nam and other senior figures, the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

A spokesman for Mr. Richardson, who is a personal friend of President Bill Clinton, said in Washington earlier that the Congressman sought "immediate access" to the two pilots and stressed that failure to return them "would have a serious impact on U.S.-North Korean relations."

Stu Nagurka, Mr. Richardson's spokesman, said the issue was "at the top of his agenda."

KCNA said Mr. Richardson also met Yang Hyong-Sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and Hwang Jang-Yop, chairman of the assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission. It gave no details of their talks.

The United States has expressed "very serious concerns" to North Korea about the fate of the two pilots, identified by the Pentagon as Army Chief Warrant Officers David Hileman of Clarksville, Tennessee, and Bobby Hall of Brooksville, Florida.

10 Washington, White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said Saturday that Secretary of State Warren Christopher had contacted the North Korean mission to the United Nations in New York to express concern for the safety of the pilots.

"We have indicated very serious concerns to the North Koreans about the welfare of these pilots. We want them returned," Mr. Panetta said in a television interview.

The United States has asked North Korea for a meeting at Panmunjom to discuss the return of the pilots.

Frosty relations between the United States and North Korea had recently warmed following Pyongyang's agreement to abandon its current nuclear reactors with less threatening power sources.

Earlier this year the United States and North Korea were on the brink of confrontation over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons programme and its refusal to let U.N. experts inspect its nuclear sites.

The signing in October of the agreement for North Korea to freeze its graphite

moderate reactors helped alleviate tension.

The United States, which promised to deliver safer nuclear reactors costing \$4 billion, has been holding talks with the North over setting up liaison offices in each other's capitals as a first step toward normalising relations.

The straying into North Korea of the U.S. helicopter was the latest in a string of incidents underscoring the tensions on the Korean peninsula.

North and South Korea have lived in uneasy truce across the demilitarized zone (DMZ), a four-kilometre wide strip of no man's land that divides the two Koreas since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Frequent clashes along the border have taken more than 50 American and 1,000 South Korean lives since the 1953 armistice halted the war.

North Korea shot down a U.S. CH-47 helicopter in July 1977, killing three people and injuring one on board. The bodies and the surviving crewmen were returned three days later.

Also in 1969 two North Korean MiGs shot down a U.S. USN-121 reconnaissance aircraft off the Northern east coast, killing 31 Americans.

The worst year was 1968, which witnessed a total of 162 U.S. and South Korean military officers killed and 294 injured in 181 separate incidents.

On Jan. 21, 1968, 29 North Koreans were killed and one captured when they intruded into Seoul in an attempt to assassinate former President Park Chung-Hee.

Two days later, a U.S. navy vessel, the Pueblo, with 84 seamen aboard was seized by North Korea in international waters off the peninsula's east coast. Nearly 11 months later, 82 crew members were released.

On Aug. 18, 1976 North Korean soldiers axed to death two U.S. military officers pruning an overgrown tree in the truce village of Panmunjom.

The Stalinist state keeps about one million men under arms, some 60 per cent of them deployed near the border with the South, the United States has 37,000 troops in South Korea.

"Apart from these attacks, shootings along the border are quite frequent," said a U.S. military spokesman.

The latest serious shooting incident occurred in May 1992 when three North Korean troops were killed and two South Korean soldiers were injured after a group of North Koreans entered the southern part of the DMZ.

In Panmunjom in late 1984, the defection of a former Soviet Union tour guide triggered a gun battle in which three Northern soldiers and one from the South died.

EU to allow foreigners to vote in local elections

BRUSSELS (R) — Not without a struggle, the European Union is about to allow its citizens to vote or run in local elections no matter where they live.

A new law expected to be adopted by EU foreign ministers Monday could lead to a French mayor being elected in Denmark or to Greeks voting for a municipal councillor in Britain.

Under the proposal, EU citizens living in any of the Union's member states would be allowed to vote for local political posts where they live and to run for office there too.

It is similar to the right to vote locally for members of the European Parliament; the EU's only directly elected body.

Expatriates will also not be allowed to create candidate lists under Luxembourg's proportional representation system.

In France, non-French EU voters will not be allowed to vote for mayor on the grounds that French mayors have certain law enforcement powers.

Nor, if elected to a relevant local post, will they be allowed to help choose French senators, a task currently carried out by some local officials.

In Luxembourg, where more than 20 per cent of the population comes from elsewhere — mainly Portugal and Italy — outsiders will have to

be residents for six years before getting the vote.

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Nor, if elected to a relevant local post, will they be allowed to help choose French senators, a task currently carried out by some local officials.

In Belgium, meanwhile, there are fears that letting foreigners vote for local officials could shake the fragile

French-Dutch language barrier that is the basis of the country's political system.

Thousands of non-Belgian EU nationals, living in the area because of EU institutions, reside in Dutch-speaking communes, or districts, surrounding Brussels.

Nearly all of them speak French. Very few speak Dutch.

If they were to be given the vote, officials in the communes fear, they would be likely to vote for French-speaking officials, threatening the hold of the Dutch speakers on their traditional communities.

The result is an exemption saying that in any commune where the non-Belgian

population is greater than 20 per cent, foreigners will have had to be resident for six years before being entitled to vote.

Some European Commission officials have hinted they may challenge the exemptions before the European Court of Justice.

Meanwhile, European Union fisheries ministers will meet Monday to try to resolve a dispute over fishing rights.

EU leaders meeting in Essen, Germany, earlier this month ordered fisheries ministers to sort out the row over access for Spanish and Portuguese fishermen to the Union's Western waters — by the end of the year.

Apathy grips mayoral poll in Slovenia

LJUBLJANA (AFP) — Voter apathy stamped itself on the second round of Slovenia's mayoral elections Sunday, as just 18.6 per cent of the registered 1.5 million voters bothered to cast their ballot Sunday morning in a poll likely to give a thumbs-down to Premier Janez Drnovsek.

The turnout at 11:00 a.m. (1000 GMT) was four per cent down on turnout at the same stage in the first round on Dec. 4, the Electoral Commission said.

Commission officials said many Slovaks had taken advantage of a perfect winter's day to go skiing in the Kranjska Gora or Planica Mountains north of Ljubljana.

In the first municipal elections since Slovenia gained independence in 1991, turnout at the end of the first round was 60 per cent, leaving Mr. Drnovsek's ruling coalition looking for an improvement Sunday.

In the opening round, Mr. Drnovsek's centre-left Liberal Democratic Party slumped to 17.2 per cent, down from 23.5 per cent in the 1992 general election.

The party's woes is shared by the other leftist party in the three-party coalition, the former communist United List, which was fighting to maintain its 13.5 per cent share of the vote.

The conservative Christian Democrats, also in the coalition, were meanwhile looking forward to consolidating their increased 18 per cent share of the vote, up from 14.5 per cent in the general election.

Overall, the first round gains went to the right-wing parties. The opposition Social Democratic Party was the biggest winner from the first round, gaining 14 per cent against its 3.5 per cent showing in 1992.

The agrarian Popular Party also increased its share, from 5.7 per cent to 12 per cent.



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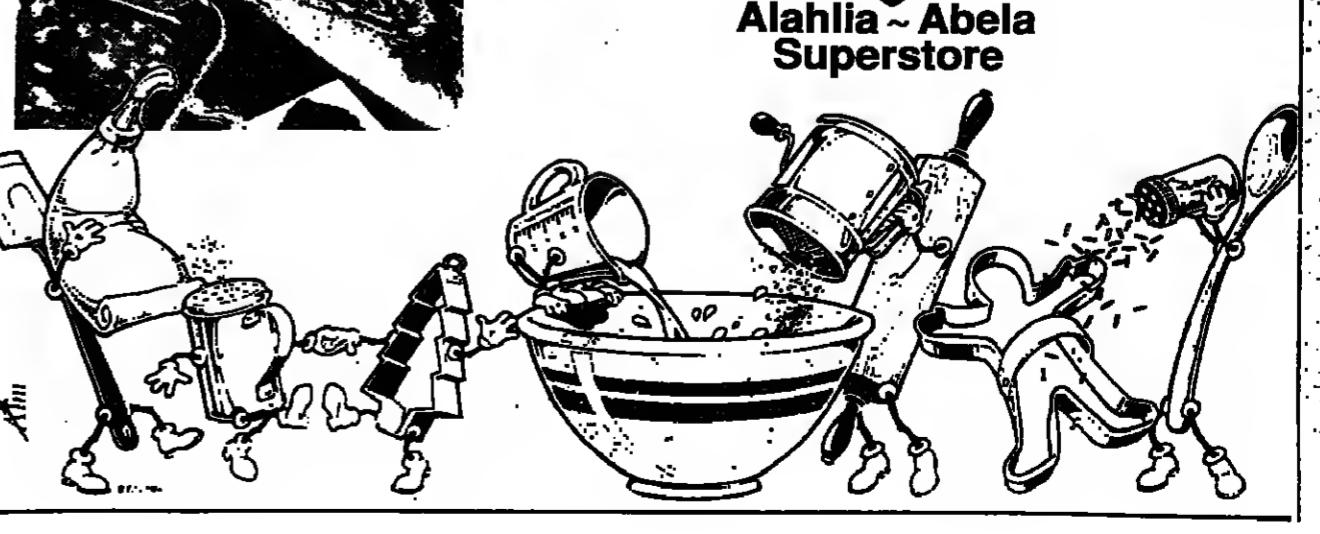
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Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1994

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Unions in identity game

ONE OF the controversial issues being widely debated in the country is whether trade and professional associations are departing from the purposes and objectives for which they have been established, concentrating instead on playing a game, not theirs, which is politics. There is nothing in our constitution and laws that deprives citizens, including unions and professionals, of discussing politics or taking political stands and participating fully in the democratic process. On the other hand, the exploitation of labour unions, professional associations, clubs and charities, by using them as platforms for launching political attacks on the country's policies could be frowned at here as indeed in other countries. It can be well argued that these unions and the like are formed and convened simply to conduct the basic business of their members for the purpose of protecting their interests and improving their work conditions. It is a common experience in advanced democracies that trade and professional associations pronounce themselves on domestic matters such as the fiscal or tax policies or other social or economic pursuits. Human rights is also a subject that comes within the natural scope of associations' jurisdictions. So, why no one would want to silence our professionals from speaking out on such issues as employment, health, poverty and the environment, the fact remains that these organisations have, for the most part, kept silent on them preferring to tackle the treaty with Israel and opposing "normalisation with the enemy." What, for instance, has the Jordan Medical Association done about the increasing number of diet-related cancer cases in Jordan and how has it "cared" for reports about mothers' milk containing high levels of DDT? Why has that association remained oblivious to dangers of overexposure to agricultural products and other pollutants? Equally pertinent questions can be asked to our engineers, lawyers and others. Bread and butter issues are, by all standards, more important to Jordanians than the crisis in Bosnia and the status of U.S.-West relations, important as these problems are.

The figure that permitted the establishment of trade and professional associations are now to be rationale behind their existence — normalising is certainly not one of them. This does not mean that they cannot and should not express their opinions on any issue. Only, it is just that we would like to get their priorities right.

INDEPENDENT PRESS COMMENTARIES

MAZEN RA'AI: At Casablanca summit, saying that the conference, which was meant to end differences among Arab states, has in fact resulted in deepening these differences and divisions. It is clear that the leaders of the Islamic Nation would not move towards solving Islamic issues like the situation in Afghanistan and Bosnia and end the embargo on Iraq, but nothing of this has been achieved, said Mazen Ra'ai. The writer said the Islamic masses are dismayed and disappointed to see these results and to see their countries divided more than ever before. The conference definitely serves by voicing its support, by words alone, to the Iranian people but failed to come up with a formula to help the suffering of their children and the aggression of their leaders, added the writer. The writer said that the fact that the Islamic conference have proved to be impotent, throughout their meetings, to deal with the issues of most concern to the Muslim people reflect the backwardness of the nation, and the obsolete manner in which they try to pose questions or concern to the Islamic World.

REGARDLESS OF the resolutions and the final statement issued by the Casablanca summit, towards which Jordan expressed reservations, Jordanians and Palestinians are determined to remain united in word and deed, said Aj Ra'i early Sunday. The paper said that Jordan will remain true to its commitment, the Hashemites will honour their responsibility of the holy shrines and the Palestinians will continue to support the King's endeavours to regain Arab rights in Palestine, said the paper. We were not angered by the final statement of the conference, but we were pleased to see Islamic Nations in disarray and overlooking the role played by the Hashemites in safeguarding the holy places over the past decades, said the daily. We were pleased because the Islamic nations gathered at Casablanca realise too well that the Muslims have common principles concerning against the Islamic rights but still do nothing to offset this conspiracy and display the minimum of solidarity, said the paper. It said that Jordan and the Hashemites need no certificate of testimony by any party for their historic role in safeguarding the holy shrines in behalf of the Islamic Nation.

HUMAN RIGHTS FILE

By Dr. Waleed M. Suleiman

Israeli Supreme Court's activism should be emulated

ISRAEL'S MILITARY machine and state of the art technology have always been the envy of its Arab neighbours. After all, we on the Arab side have attributed to our repeated defeat at Israel's hands to its military prowess and political clout in Western countries. With the military option now defunct, in the wake of the ratification or impending conclusion of peace treaties between Israel and the principal Arab parties, the Arab eyes may turn to other Israeli feats from which we can draw the necessary conclusions if not duplicate them altogether.

I cannot think of a more fitting example than the judiciary and its course for Israel to learn from and emulate where possible. My recent participation in an international conference at the Hebrew University, entitled "The Nature and Legitimacy of Judicial Review," gave me a rare opportunity to have a timely glimpse at the making of the Israeli judiciary, its challenges and troubled waters ahead. The conference, attended by U.S. Supreme Court Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Canadian Supreme Court judges Gerard La Forest, Peter Cory and Frank Iacobucci and many other judges, like Quebec Court of Appeals Judge Michel Proulx, Chief Justice of the Alberta Court of Appeals Catherine Fraser, Judge Rosalie Abella of the Ontario Court of Appeals and many other legal scholars and deans of prominent law schools, was matched by an army of Israeli judges and scholars headed by the chief justice of the Israeli Supreme Court, Aharon Barak, and his colleague, Supreme Court Justice Itzhak Zamir. Israeli Minister of Justice Professor David Libai and Minister of Economy and Planning Professor Shimon Shetreet were also there to leave them imprints on the deliberations of the conference.

The meeting could not have occurred at more opportune time since it coincided with the passing of an Israeli judicial storm that centred on no other than Chief Justice Barak himself. The immediate pretext of the national and juridical controversy was the recent ruling by the Barak court that qualified a homosexual couple as a married couple

in the eyes of the Israeli legislators and therefore eligible to the privileges and rights of heterosexually married peoples. The religious community and their supporters expectedly went up in arms against this "too liberal" construction of the relevant Israeli law and accused the Israeli Supreme Court under the leadership of Justice Barak of attempting to rewrite Israeli laws and, by so doing, trespass the prerogatives of the legislative branch, the Knesset. Even a more serious charge was the claim that such far-reaching judicial decisions stand to undermine the Jewishness of the Israeli democracy. Justice Barak and his colleagues at the court stuck to their guns and defended their right to engage in "progressive interpretation" of the basic laws of the country. Ministers Libai and Shetreet came to the rescue of the "rebellious" judiciary by asserting that the independence and integrity of the judicial branch must be preserved at all costs and that progressive interpretation of the organic laws of the country is a necessary function of modern statehood.

For us, the immediate issue is not whether homosexual couples should be treated as and accorded the benefits associated with legally married heterosexuals. The prime concern for us is the quality, integrity and independence of the court system and its ability to engage in evolutionary construction of our Constitution and other basic laws. When told about our own judicial storm that was touched off by a series of resignations from the Judicial Council and the highest courts of the land, the Court of Cassation and Supreme Court Justice, Justice Barak showed interest in our judicial experience and we both wondered if both sides can learn from each other in advancing the cause of the judicial review as a necessary means to set the dynamics of true modernisation into motion. I also asked during my interventions whether as jurists we can draw a parallel between the call for the preservation of "Jewish democracy" as distinguished from pluralistic democracy and the demand of the Islamic forces in the Arab and Muslim worlds for the establishment of "Islamic democracy."

Justice Barak is a superb judge with very high integrity and an extremely enlightened mind and it is with the like of Justice Barak that Israel can be transformed into a full-fledged democracy and a champion of civil liberties.

The causes of peace and human rights and Israel stand to profit a great deal from the emergence of an "activist" Israeli Supreme Court. I say so not because I agree with their ruling on homosexuals. If anything, I am opposed to that decision. On the other hand, as a jurist preoccupied with human rights, I am firmly supportive of the sense of activism that the Israeli Supreme Court is constantly defending and I hope that one day we, on the Arab side, would enjoy a similar judiciary in order to better cope with changing times.

By a stroke of luck, the Conference on the Nature and Legitimacy of Judicial Review took place when the current judicial controversy in Israel is unfolding. The eminent judges, jurists and law professors were united in defending Chief Justice Barak and his colleagues. Arabs have a stake in the ongoing struggle across the Jordan River for a more active judiciary that is not only independent but also powerful enough to judicially test the policies and legislature represents the majority of the people, the judiciary represents the national conscience of all the people.

LETTERS

Chechenya's right to self-rule

To the Editor:

Russian Ambassador to Jordan Alexandre Vladimirovich Saltanov's statement (Jordan Times Dec. 15-16, 1994), that the conflict in Chechenya is not religious, like the one in Bosnia is absolutely true. But his claim that Chechenya is an integral part of the Russian Federation is questionable.

Throughout history, religion and ethnic differences have been used only as excuses by the mightier countries to colonise and invade the weaker ones. The main reason behind colonisation, imperialism or invasion is always one-sided interests. The interests of the mightier country to expand is frontiers, to exploit the resources of other nations and to exercise its dominance over the weaker. All these interests are against basic human rights, self-determination and self-rule.

The Chechen, and other north Caucasian people's, struggle against Tsarist Russia's takeover of the region in the 19th century is well documented in history, as is the mass deportation to barren Siberia of the entire Chechen nation between 1944 and 1957 by the former communist Soviet Union. This attempt of ethnic cleansing of nations was performed ruthlessly against many peoples in the former Soviet Union.

The Russian parliament (Duma) acknowledged in 1990 that this genocide was a grave mistake. This acknowledgement, although valuable, does not erase history nor the memory of the affected people, Chechens included.

The Checheno-Ingush Republic was an autonomous entity in the former Russian, Soviet Socialist Republic. In November, 1990, the Chechen National Conference was held in Grozny (capital of Chechenya) and the participants unanimously proclaimed the independence and sovereignty of the Checheno-Ingush Republic (a right to self-determination that the constitution of the former Soviet Union guaranteed to its constituent republics). The participants in this conference represented all ethnic groups in the Checheno-Ingush Republic, with the ratio of one delegate per 1,000 inhabitants.

The declaration of independence was ratified by the parliament of the republic on Nov. 27, 1990. The former Soviet Union was dissolved at midnight, Dec. 31, 1991. As a result of the break-up of the Soviet Union (which President Yeltsin played a major role in) the former Russian Soviet Social Republic also declared its independence.

In this constitutional vacuum, the Chechen Republic lost all its constitutional links and bonds with any former Soviet existence. The Russian Federation was created upon signing the Russian Federation treaty on March 13, 1992. By its own will, Chechenya did not sign this treaty and could not be coerced into doing so. Thus, the Chechen Republic never became an integral part of the Russian Federation. The claim that Chechenya has unilaterally seceded or separated from the federation is categorically incorrect since it never was a part of it. Therefore, Chechenya is not a Russian internal affair.

The Chechen Republic is an independent, free entity with all the rights to self-determination, self-rule, democracy and human rights. These are the principles that peace and freedom-loving people of Chechenya believe in, when dealing with their neighbours in the Russian Federation. These are the same principles that have brought President Yeltsin to power. Why deny them to others? Why deny them to the north Caucasus nations?

The Russian claim that if Chechenya breaks away from the Russian Federation, the Chechen people will suffer greatly because they can not establish their own modern country is incorrect. The Chechen people have survived 200 years of brutal wars with the invading Russians. They will certainly survive if left in peace. The Chechen Republic united in a federation with the whole north Caucasus nations will develop into a modern state with its own resources. This European state will definitely have a positive impact and contribution to the world at large.

Hashim Beano,
The Jordanian Committee for
the Support of the People of the
Independent Caucasian Chechen Republic,
Amman.

Refreshing experience

To the Editor:

Without commenting on the merits of either review in the Dec. 14, 1994 issue of the Jordan Times of the art works by Dutch painter Gert Bielenbroodspot, now on exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre, I am writing to thank and commend you for running two different opinions on the same page of your newspaper. What a refreshing — and sadly, rare — experience! The contrast in views made me want to go out and take a look at those paintings for myself. I hope we readers can look forward to more such exchanges on a variety of subjects in your paper.

Katherine J. Sullivan,
Amman, Sweitiyah

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



in military aid Israel gets annually, or the funding of joint projects, notably the Arrow anti-ballistic missile system. A "senior military source" told journalists that Israel has not hitherto encountered Republican opposition on these matters. The Arrow system has been closely associated with the "Star Wars" anti-missile programme strongly promoted by President Reagan.

Israel's nervousness over the political change in the U.S. has historical roots that can be traced back to the "New Deal" and Roosevelt's coalition of minorities in the 1930s and '40s. Like the overwhelming majority of U.S. Jews, Israelis have generally displayed an instinctive bent towards the Democrats, rather naively portrayed as an embodiment of all the virtues: champions of social justice and equality of opportunity in domestic policy, and universalist activism in the international arena. By contrast, Republicans were perceived as the party of big business: the sinister influence of the oil companies was often blamed for the party's alleged anti-Israel bias. Jews with longer historical memories recall Republican isolationism as a major impediment to U.S. adherence to the anti-Nazi coalition in World War II. The social democrats who ruled Israel in its early years had no difficulty in finding a common language with the trade unionists and liberals who played such a prominent role in the Democratic party — while taking a dark view of the Republican Eisenhower administration and its secretary of state, John Foster Dulles, particularly after their intervention to curtail the 1956 Suez campaign.

The general pro-Democratic tilt nevertheless featured some striking deviations, particularly on the part of Yitzhak Rabin. The 1972 elections found Mr. Rabin, in his first civilian post as ambassador to Washington, ignoring diplomatic protocol to speak out strongly on behalf of Richard Nixon. The fact that U.S. Jews largely ignored his advice and persisted in their traditional Democratic alle-

giances did not reduce Democrats' piety at this show of "Israeli perfidy". Later, in his first term as prime minister, Mr. Rabin's relations with Democratic President Jimmy Carter were cool. Evidently free of his party's pro-Democratic bias, Mr. Rabin responded to the election results "in the world's friendliest country towards Israel" by recalling the broad support for Israel in both major parties. He will have no inhibitions about working in close concert with Washington's new Republicans.

Congress about foreign aid

But while Rabin may sense no discomfort over the Republican victory, many Israeli observers feel unease over the growing political clout of Christian fundamentalists and their far-right associates. The Israeli media were openly relieved over Oliver North's failure to win a Senate seat — in spite of North's close links with Israel in the secret arms deals of Iran-contra.

Notwithstanding occasional relapses into old-fashioned anti-Semitism, the American far-right — like the majority of Christian fundamentalists groups — is noisily pro-Israel. But such gung-ho "holier than the Pope" support could prove an embarrassment to the policies of the Rabin government. The Israeli media highlighted remarks by Republican Senator Jessie Helms querying Syria's genuine interest in peace with Israel, and alleging that all Mr. Assad wants "is the Golani Heights and access to the pockets of U.S. taxpayers". Mr. Helms' long-standing hostility towards the PLO closely echoes the sentiments of the Likud opposition.

All this is in jeopardy after the Republican victory. As suggested by the foreign ministry memorandum, Israel can no longer count on a knee-jerk sympathy for its demands and interests in Washington. If Mr. Rabin wishes to rely on continuation of unqualified U.S. support, he must adopt the Republican lexicon. The task should not be too arduous: his first step will be to revive terms employed by his Likud predecessors in the posts respectively of prime minister and defence minister. Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon rejected the charge that Israel was a U.S. "client state" and never tired of pointing out that U.S.-Israel relations were "a partnership", with Israel "a strategic asset", protecting U.S. interests in the Middle East. In a renewed climate of "America First" Republicanism, such tones should go over well in Washington.

Middle East International

D. H. in 1994

Features

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1994 7

Crisis looms as Europe runs out of dump sites

By Christopher Burns
The Associated Press

ENTRESEN, France — The artificial mountain reeks in the morning sun, growing ever bigger as cranes empty train cars loaded with tonnes of Marseille's trash.

Reputed to be Europe's biggest waste dump, covering 85 hectares that includes refuse from before World War I, it is a symbol of the garbage crisis facing much of the continent.

As in the United States, dumps are filling fast in Europe and new sites are hard to find because of high population density and "not in my backyard" resistance.

That is forcing countries to step up plans to incinerate or export trash.

Environmentalists, in turn, are fighting those plans. They say that incinerators emit dangerous pollutants, that more should be done to limit product packaging, and that Europe should stop exporting its garbage, especially toxic waste.

"In a number of countries there's a real saturation problem," said Marius Enthoven, the European Union's director general for environment and nuclear safety.

By 2005, landfills "will become a secondary or tertiary option. Some countries will go for the incineration solution," he said.

Marseille, by the end of the decade, will have to find somewhere else to roll 60 railcars filled with 15 tonnes each of garbage daily, said Jean St. Martin, a technical advisor at the Entrezen dump 48 kilometres northwest of the Mediterranean port.

The city plans to build two incinerators within its boundaries, but locals are fighting it.

Marseille's recycling programme targets metal, paper, wood, glass, tyres, batteries and used oil, and "people are asking for it to expand," Mr. St. Martin said. But plastic, 25 per cent of the trash arriving at Entrezen, is not recycled.

The problem is cost. *Rewri*

cycling already is so successful that the supply of returned and sorted refuse is outstripping demand, forcing Marseille to pay companies \$38 a tonne just to cart off paper, Mr. St. Martin said.

Incineration is cheaper than recycling, Marseille Mayor Robert Vigouroux said.

"In France we consider the most important thing is to get value out of garbage," said Francis Chalot, a waste engineer at France's Environment Ministry. "Recycling is not the best way sometimes."

Paris no longer has dumps and instead has three incinerators, two of which produce heating for the city's buildings, Mr. Chalot said.

"What system doesn't pollute? To sort more effectively, you'd have to send more trucks to pick it up," he said.

French officials support their case for incineration by pointing to Germany, where companies were overwhelmed by recycled trash after instituting a programme that allows consumers to return packaging.

"When the Germans pick it up, they don't know what to do with it," Mr. Chalot said.

The German government has stepped in to help finance recycling. But while the country may look "greener" than some of its neighbours, it is dumping abroad.

France is one of the main destinations — the environmental group Greenpeace calls it "Europe's garbage can" — for both legal and illicit trash shipments.

French customs officials say 30,000 tonnes of demolition refuse were dumped illegally in northern Alsace this year. In September, officials found an illegal dump near the eastern town of Bar-le-Duc containing 300 tonnes of discarded plastic packaging from Germany.

Mr. Enthoven is gradually standardising regulations on transporting waste between member nations.

The EU also issued a directive in May banning the export of non-recyclable waste to non-European countries.

The problem is cost. *Rewri*

Carter on Bosnia mission

(Continued from page 12)

has since evolved into an elder statesman whose private diplomacy has helped settle explosive crises in North Korea and Haiti.

The Balkan mission shaped up as his most complex and politically treacherous challenge yet, involving three national communities hardened by years of war and adept at manipulating would-be peacemakers for their own ends.

Western officials and Bosnian Muslims were concerned that the Serbs would abuse his high diplomatic reputation to undercut the contact group plan. But the top U.N. official in former Yugoslavia ruled this out after briefing Mr. Carter.

"I think ... Carter is too intelligent to be manipulated

by anybody," said Yasushi Akashi, civilian chief of UNPROFOR and special envoy of the U.N. secretary general in the Balkans.

Some diplomats said Mr. Carter's only prospect of success was if the Bosnian Serbs and Mr. Karadzic needed him as a fire-saving figure for reversing their repudiation of the peace plan.

Mr. Carter arrived in Yugoslavia without evidence the Bosnian Serbs had fulfilled promises made under a new "peace initiative" by Mr. Karadzic to stop paralyzing U.N. humanitarian operations and end fighting around Sarajevo.

Mr. Karadzic pledged last week to free detained U.N. personnel, reopen besieged Sarajevo airport for U.N. aid flights, allow U.N. convoys to move freely, release Mus-

lim prisoners under 19 years of age and accept a ceasefire in Sarajevo.

"I will observe very closely the commitment by Dr.

Rabin ready for compromise

(Continued from page 1)

tration, a Palestinian official said Sunday.

The Israeli army said that Palestinian police force, set up under the Israeli-PLO peace accord, had apologized in the name of Mr. Arafat for the incident in which an Israeli soldier was wounded and the policeman, who shouted abuse before opening fire, was wounded and captured.

The shooting took place at an Israeli army post at Suha in the southern Gaza Strip. Both injured men were taken to hospital in fair condition.

Karadzic and will decide what to do after discussions I will be leading with the president of Bosnia when we arrive in Sarajevo," Mr. Carter said.

In parliament, Rabbi Ravitz shouted at Mr. Peres to "shut his mouth". Reporters said Rabbi Avraham Verdiger became so worked up he had to take medication to lower his blood pressure.

Cabinet minister Shulamit Aloni of the leftist Meretz Party said she rejected any notion the religious parties who established Jerusalem as the heart of Judaism as

cast the no-confidence motion would fail.

But the ruling Labour Party under Mr. Rabin, whose previous government fell 17 years ago in a clash with a religious coalition partner, was taking no chances.

Labour Party officials held last-minute consultations with religious party members to try to get them to drop the motion in the 120-member

Knesset and ordered all party members to show up for the vote.

Mr. Rabin's 56-member coalition relies on support from Arab-dominated parties outside the government to survive close votes. Their support appeared assured but any absence of coalition members could tilt the balance.

Religious parties have

been part of nearly every Israeli government in the country's 46-year history. The ultra-Orthodox Shas Party joined the Labour-led government in 1992 but bolted a year later over Shas corruption scandals.

Mr. Rabin has since been trying to bring Shas back to broaden his base of support for peace moves with neighbouring Arabs.

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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1994

Republicans to open '95 with a spending cut blitz

Analysts expect Fed to resume raising interest rates next month

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) meets Tuesday to consider raising interest rates for the seventh time this year, but most analysts are betting it will hold off from acting rather than spoil the Christmas cheer.

After boosting short-term rates sharply just last month, the inflation-wary central bank is at a crossroads. It knows the economy is ending 1994 with a bang, but it expects growth to slow next year as the tighter credit bite.

The result? A probable decision at Tuesday's meeting to delay a rate increase until after the start of the new year, when the Fed will have a better idea of how the economy performed during the crucial Christmas selling season.

"They will wait a bit longer, wanting to take a look at Christmas spending and inflation as they go into the new year," said David Jones, a veteran Fed watcher and chief economist at Wall Street firm Aubrey G. Lerner & Co.

But the delay is likely be short-lived. Most analysts expect the central bank to resume raising interest rates next month. Mr. Jones is looking for a half-percentage point increase in January, while other analysts expect up to full point boost.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan was as clear as he gets in signaling that higher rates are on the way in testimony to Congress earlier this month.

While insisting that he did not know whether the central bank would raise rates this week, Mr. Greenspan painted a picture of an economy that was growing too fast for the Fed's liking and that was fueling inflationary pressures in the process. "We must remain alert to signs of inflationary pressures," he told Congress' Joint Economic Committee. "If price increases are accommodated, they can become readily embedded in higher inflation expectations."

Even some Clinton administration insiders admit that higher short-term interest rates are likely next year. "It's not unreasonable to think there might be further rate increases," was how one senior official put it.

But the official, who declined to be named, expects the Fed to hold off from acting this week as it tries to gauge the economic impact of the actions that it's already taken.

The Fed has raised rates by a total of 2½ percentage points since February, including three-quarters last month.

"This is a time when you want to have a delicate hand," the senior Clinton administration official said.

That argument is not lost on policymakers at the Fed, even the so-called anti-inflation hawks. They want to cool off the economy and thus extend the economic expansion, not kill it.

"If you try to do too much too fast, there's a chance of an overkill," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Minneapolis-based Norwest Corp.

So far there doesn't seem much risk of that happening. A string of economic indicators released last week — from housing starts to industrial production — showed the economy continuing to steam ahead.

They like President Bill Clinton's plan to give \$60 billion in tax relief to middle-income earners but plan to go much further.

The president's budget won't be dead on arrival when it comes to Capitol Hill next year," said a senior Republican Senate aide. "We're going to take his ideas for cutting government and then cut even more."

For its part, the administration expects the Fed to succeed in its effort to slow the expansion without killing it, and is projecting annual economic growth of about 2½ percent over the next two years, officials said.

Some participants in financial markets are already concerned that the rush to cut taxes could force higher gov-

ernment borrowings and in turn send interest rates higher.

But Republicans say not to worry. "We plan on having more in spending cuts than we would have in tax cuts," said Mr. Lerner. "We would have money left over."

And Republicans plan to cut a lot. A senior Senate Republican aide estimated \$850 billion in cuts are needed over the next five years, much larger than any deficit cutting package ever passed.

These cuts will be huge, enormous, unbelievable," a House Republican aide said. "It will be the most radical change you have ever seen in federal government."

But won't Mr. Clinton use his presidential veto? Outlining his tax-cut plan in an address to the nation, Mr. Clinton warned that he wouldn't tolerate "ideas that hurt poor people."

But the Republicans argue that Mr. Clinton is now a follower who may take their lead.

It's just another case of the president saying too much, chided budget committee chairman-designate John Kasich, a Republican from Ohio. After Mr. Clinton proposed his tax cuts,

Republican leaders from both houses are conferring often to coordinate their strategy.

House speaker-designate Newt Gingrich of Georgia and Senate majority leader-designate Robert Dole of Kansas have exchanged two letters in recent weeks, including one urging Mr. Clinton to adopt their platform on taxes, foreign and domestic policy.

They pain to roll their major proposals into one large budget bill that can move through the House and Senate next year.

The Republicans think they can tie Mr. Clinton's hands on a veto because the nation is expected to reach the statutory limits on its accumulated debt of \$4.9 trillion in August.

But for that to happen, the

presidents reaffirmed the democratic values of Mercosur which they considered essential to achieve the final goal of common market.

Mercosur, Spanish for common market of the southern cone, will group 200 million people and has a collective \$700 billion in gross domestic product.

The average tariff for countries outside Mercosur is 12 per cent, with a range from zero to 20 per cent.

Four L. American states sign trade accord

OURO PRETO, Brazil (R) — The presidents of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay Saturday sanctioned the almost-total liberalisation of regional trade from Jan. 1 next year.

President Carlos Menem of Argentina, Itamar Franco of Brazil, Juan Carlos Wasmosy of Paraguay and Alberto Lacalle of Uruguay — meeting in the Brazilian town of Ouro Preto — signed a docu-

ment furthering the development of the Mercosur common market.

The four presidents welcomed the presence of ministers from Bolivia and Chile, two countries which have expressed interest in joining Mercosur in the near future.

The protocol marks the ratification of Mercosur thus allowing for future negotiations with other countries and groups such as the European

billion in annual trade among them, a figure which is expected to rise to \$12 billion next year.

Under the accord, 90-95 per cent of goods traded among the nations will have no tariffs. The rest will have curbs that can be eased over the next five years.

The average tariff for countries outside Mercosur is 12 per cent, with a range from zero to 20 per cent.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Egyptian exports rise by 14%

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian exports rose by more than 14 per cent in the 1993-94 financial year, Economy Minister Mohamed Bayumi said in an interview published Sunday.

Exports stood at 10.4 billion Egyptian pounds (\$3 billion) between July 1993 and June 1994, compared with 9.1 billion pounds (\$2.6 billion) the previous year, Mr. Bayumi told the Al Ahram daily.

The figure surpasses the expectations of the International Monetary Fund, which forecast exports worth \$2.98 billion in the last financial year.

But it remains lower than Egypt's import levels, which hit \$15 billion in 1992-93.

Mr. Bayumi said the government would aim to further boost exports next year by implementing measures set out in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"Taxes imposed on some exported food products will be removed while others will be reduced," the minister said.

Egypt's main export is oil products. According to an international expert, non-oil exports make up just four per cent of the country's gross domestic product, compared to six per cent in 1987-88.

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Growth of the Indonesian economy is projected to accelerate from 7.1 per cent to 7.6 per cent, while Taiwan's economic growth is to recover slightly from 6.3 per cent to 6.4 per cent. The Philippine economy is to mark growth of 5.8 per cent, up from 4.5 per cent, but growth in Hong Kong is to slow from 5.7 per cent to 5.3 per cent.

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U.S., Pakistan sign \$2.5b energy deals

ISLAMABAD (R) — U.S. and Pakistani companies signed 18 deals Saturday amounting to \$2.5 billion of investment in Pakistan's energy and petroleum sectors.

"These agreements reflect the interest of the private industry in America — and the interest of the government of the United States in expanding business ties with Pakistan," said Mr. White, who praised Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government for its investment incentives.

Memorandums of understanding were signed at a special ceremony in Islamabad after six days of talks between U.S. and Pakistani firms.

Mr. White's visit followed one by U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary in September when U.S. businessmen signed energy deals amounting to \$4 billion.

Mr. White told a news conference that the agreements would take years to be fully implemented but said some ground-breaking would begin next year.

Pakistan Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Anwar Saifullah said Islamabad would soon announce new policies to encourage foreign investment in hydroelectric power generation and renewable energy technology, and 10 worth \$58 million were for oil and gas concessions.

mineral exploration. The four power generation projects worth \$2.018 million signed Saturday, include coal-fired and gas-fired stations, a U.S. statement said.

The participating U.S. companies are Alter Inc., American United Machinery, Leesburg Financial and BBL.

Of the \$425 million projects, two involve wind generation, one hydro and one energy efficiency, with U.S. companies including Kenetech, Omega Zond, Synergics and Condyne.

The 10 deals in oil and gas concessions worth \$58 million "rang from seismic opera-

tions to the construction of an LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) terminal," the statement added.

U.S. companies partnering Pakistani firms in those projects included Union Texas Petroleum, Ferrellgas North America, Voco, and Improbable Petroleum Recovery International.

In addition to the 18 deals, the United States and Pakistani ministers signed five bilateral agreements involving hydrocarbon research, renewable energy resources and energy conservation, the statement said.

Organised crime is main threat to business — study

LONDON (R) — Fraud is turning into a greater threat to international business than terrorism, consultants Control Risks Group said Monday.

"While political instability, nationalism and religious extremism will continue to disrupt business in 1995, organised crime is the most pervasive and sophisticated threat business will face next year," said a study in the group's Business Security Outlook.

The report said the threat

of organised crime is growing because of several factors. The globalisation of business is leading to a globalisation of organised crime and criminals have increasingly sophisticated technology available to them.

Jobless guerrillas seeking alternative employment in criminal groups and disenchanted youths turning to crime now that left-wing ideology has gone out of fashion were other factors cited by the study.

"The threat of crime is set

to become a key item on board meeting agendas," said Nigel Churton, managing director of Control Risks Group.

A survey of British

businesses published in the

Business Security Outlook

showed that Russia, Nigeria, Egypt and China were considered the most risky places to do business.

But Christopher Grose, director of Control Risks Information Services, said the risks of Egypt were overstated.

"While we would agree with business about the extent of the risks in Russia, Nigeria and China, businesses overestimate the threat in Egypt. In fact aside from a few isolated attacks on tourists in 1994, Egypt presents an excellent opportunity for investment," he said.

The Control Risks Group also published its predictions for 1995, forecasting a civil war in Algeria and peace treaties between Israel and the Lebanon and Syria.

Business in Kuwait depends on Jordanians, Palestinians

★ The announcement in Kuwait about the cancellation of the high salary condition for an expatriate to bring his family to the emirate is seen as a step forward to open the door wider for Jordanian and Palestinian workers to return to Kuwait. A private study in the emirate has meanwhile pointed out that the return of Jordanian and Palestinian workers was the cornerstone for renewed commercial activity in Kuwait because the two communities have higher consumption and are bigger spenders than other communities which had a very limited role in reviving the commercial activity. Furthermore, a report by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior has revealed that the Jordanians and Palestinians had a more positive effect on the emirate's social level as they were the least of the communities there to have been involved in criminal activities. As such, the only remaining step towards allowing the return of Jordanian and Palestinian workers to Kuwait is a political decision, especially after having prepared the Kuwaiti people to accept their return following widespread rejection of them in previous years (Al Aswag).

★ The World Bank and the U.S. will reportedly participate in financing the \$500 million Red Sea Dead Sea canal project (Al Aswag).

★ Gas accounts for 18 per cent of the fuel used to generate electricity (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ The Social Security Corporation has issued a report covering the activities and achievements of the corporation during 1993. The report, the sixth of kind, reviews the economic situation between 1989 and 1993 and examines population, workforce, tourism activity and the corporation's investments. The report also describes the corporation's functions with relations to the institutions and people associated with its objectives (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ The Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPCO) has started to accept contracts from farmers who seek to supply the company with tomatoes for industrial processing during the next season. According to AMPCO's general manager, the company will be adopting a free pricing policy whereby it would pay the farmers according to quality and on pure commercial basis (Al Aswag).

★ A study by the Royal Scientific Society has concluded that the quality control level for both of the metal can and the food product inside it (the can) was low, thereby negatively affecting the quality of the product and its suitability for human consumption in addition to affecting the capability of attracting foreign market interests (Al Aswag).

★ The Cabinet has agreed to guarantee a JD 20 million Housing Bank loan to the teachers' housing fund. In implementation of a Royal directive, the government will cover the interest on the loan. It is expected that between 1,000 and 1,500 teachers will benefit from this decision for a period ranging between two and three years (Al Dustour).

★ The Council of Ministers has agreed to exempt travel and tourism offices from the seven per cent sales tax imposed last June on tourism services because such a tax will benefit foreign countries and competitors at the expense of the treasury and local operators (Al Dustour).

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (December 12 - December 16, 1994)

AMMAN — The dollar depreciated against the mark at the end of last week, while rising slightly against the yen and stabilising against sterling. It ended the week 0.27 per cent lower against the mark and 0.15 per cent higher against the yen.

The U.S. unit retreated against other major currencies Monday, in view of a report published by the New York Times. The report suggested that the Fed might postpone its monetary tightening from Dec. 20th, its next Federal Open Market Committee meeting, to the end of January or early February 1995. Meanwhile, reports indicated that attempts by the U.S. Congress, with the majority Republicans, to reduce taxes put a downward pressure on the dollar, since such a reduction might lead to a higher U.S. budget deficit.

The dollar continued its decline against the mark Tuesday, while rising against the yen and sterling. It fell against the mark in view of the mark's rise against other major European currencies in cross trading, which occurred after news of political instability in some major European capitals. The mark rose against the Italian lire in view of investigations over bribery charges against the Italian prime minister. It also rose against the French franc after a leading candidate for French presidential elections, Mr. Delors, said that he is not entering the next elections.

The U.S. unit retreated modestly against the mark and sterling Wednesday, while stabilising against the yen. It declined on continued mark's rise against other major European currencies, which came on the back of continued political instability in France and Italy.

The dollar rose sharply against the mark and slightly against the yen Thursday. Reports indicated that trading was slow in view of market participants' reluctance to take fresh positions ahead of the Christmas holiday.

The U.S. unit rose modestly against major European currencies Friday, while retreating slightly against the yen. The U.S. unit thus ended the week at 1.5728 marks, 100.23 yen at \$1.5605 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	9/12/94	16/12/94	Percent Change
	Close	Close	
Sterling Pound*	1.5600	1.5605	0.03 %
Deutsche Mark	1.5770	1.5728	-0.27 %
Swiss Franc	1.3360	1.3329	-0.23 %
French Franc	5.4165	5.4235	+0.13 %
Japanese Yen	100.08	100.23	+0.15 %

* USD per STG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*		9/12/1994	16/12/1994
		1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	6.06	7.43	5.81
Sterling Pound	6.12	7.56	5.84
Deutsche Mark	5.25	5.75	5.40
Swiss Franc	3.75	4.62	3.68
French Franc	5.38	6.31	5.37
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.56	2.21

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7020	0.7040
Sterling Pound	1.0953	1.1008
Deutsche Mark	0.4461	0.4483
Swiss Franc	0.5285	0.5291
French Franc	0.1294	0.1300
Japanese Yen	0.6992	0.7027
Dutch Guilder	0.3980	0.4000
Swedish Krona
Italian Lira*	0.0428	0.0430
Belgian Franc

* Per 100



AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 18/12/1994					
COMPANY'S NAME					
ARAB BANK	300	69,875	184,000	183,750	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3,912	17,402	4,430	4,420	
BANK OF JORDAN	750	2,858	3,800	3,810	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	6,000	17,880	2,980	2,980	
THE HOUSING BANK	650	3,603	5,550	5,550	
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	3,363	10,120	3,010	3,010	
JORDAN GULF BANK	1,650	2,706	1,640	1,640	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	250	925	3,680	3,700	
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	3,100	11,483	3,670	3,630	
BEST BANK SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	550	1,751	3,200	3,180	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	600	1,022	1,680	1,710	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW	4,576	7,062	1,550	1,550	
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COOPERATIVE HOTELS	2,050	3,098	1,510	1,510	
THE JORDAN CHEMICALS MANUFACTURING	1,000	14,945	2,470	2,450	
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	5,242	15,200	2,280	2,280	
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	300	1,500	5,200	5,000	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	33	305	9,240	9,240	
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	7,000	39,013	5,500	5,600	
ARAB INDUSTRIAL & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	4,300	11,610	2,720	2,700	
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	250	253	1,000	1,010	
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	50	348	6,950	6,950	
ARAB PLASTIC CONVENTION & TRADING	7,600	7,144	0,940	0,940	
SAKHOOL STEEL INDUSTRIES	450	626	1,390	1,390	
JORDAN ROCKSOL INDUSTRIES	550	2,327	4,280	4,230	
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	3,200	5,038	1,150	1,150	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL & MATCH/JIMCO	300				

Spain trounce Belgium in Euro soccer

BRUSSELS (AP) — Midfielder Luis Enrique Martinez broke down the Belgian defense to lead Spain to a 4-1 win Saturday and extend its perfect record in European Championship qualifying Group 2.

After striker Marc Degryse gave Belgium an early lead, Spain rallied on a goal by Fernando Hierro, a penalty by Donato and a counterattack goal by Julio Salinas.

After setting up the vital first two goals with sterling play on the right wing, Luis Enrique scored the last goal on a run through the centre with two minutes left.

"What a beating," Degryse said.

The loss before a sellout crowd of 27,000 at the Vanden Stock Stadium seriously dented Belgium's chances to qualify for the 1996 finals in

England.

Spain now leads Group 2 with the maximum 12 points out of four games, ahead of Macedonia with five points. Cyprus and Belgium have four points out of four games and defending European Champion Denmark has four out of three games. Armenia has one point. Two qualify for the finals.

"We'd better start working

to the World Cup in 1998," said Belgian midfielder Lorenzo Staelens.

In the match, Belgium im-

mediately put the Spaniards under pressure, and it soon paid off.

Newcomer Gilles de Bilde

made a deep run on the left

and played the ball into the

centre from the sideline.

Miguel Angel Nadal miscued his clearance, allowing De-

gyre to score high into the net from 12 yards.

But soon Spanish class began to tell. Slowly they gained control of midfield and, especially over the right wing, pressure increased.

Luis Enrique Martinez dominated the right wing, and forced two good saves off Michael Preud'Homme around the half hour, on the second save however, the ball rebounded to Hierro.

With his back to the goal,

Hierro started juggling the ball in the air, turned, breezed past a line of Belgian defenders and curled the ball past Preud'Homme in the right corner.

Luis Enrique again made

the difference on the second goal in the 57th minute. He faked left, right, swept past Rudi Smids, drew three de-

fenders to him in the middle

before giving a perfect pass to Iker Casillas, who was promptly fouled by Philippe Albert.

Donato easily converted

the penalty.

Spanish coach Javier Clemente immediately put an extra defender on, but Salinas was still able to continue the pressure. Left open in the centre, he beat Preud'Homme with a right-foot drive in the 68th minute.

Luis Enrique outran the

defense a last time to conclude the drubbing in the 88th minute.

Bleugem came into the

game with two of its biggest stars missing through injury — playmaker Ezequiel Scifo and central defender Georges Grun. Spanish midfielder Joser Luis Canimero was

sidelined with a groin injury.

TAIPEI (R) — Frenchman Jean-Philippe Gatien fought back after losing the first two games to beat world number one Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium in the World Cup table tennis final Sunday.

Gatien triumphed 17-21, 15-21, 21-18, 26-24, 21-19 in a repeat of last year's world championship final in Gothenburg, Sweden, where the Frenchman beat Saive in five games.

Saive made an impressive start to the final here but during the crucial third game he slipped on the greasy floor and needed medical attention on court from a doctor and nurse.

The Belgian played on but lost the third game and then went down in two nail-biting tussles in the fourth and fifth.

"They wiped the table but they didn't wipe the floor. It was slippery (with sweat)," Saive said.

"I lost some balls in the fourth game because I was afraid of slipping, but I didn't loose (the match) because of this," he added.

World number seven Gatien's success crowned a week of victories over higher ranked players. He beat Swede Jan-Ove Waldner, ranked two, in the semifinal and China's Wang Tao, ranked three, in the quarter-final.

Gatien said: "I was a little surprised to come back from 2-0 down. My concentration was the key and I played well on important points."

Gatien said his backhand, usually a comparative weakness, worked well, while Saive said his returns of serve were a little off form.

The Frenchman won \$32,000 of the total \$105,000 prize money.

49ers' Young breaks Montana's record of season touchdown passes

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Steve Young threw for 350 yards and three touchdowns to lead the high-powered

49ers to a 42-19 rout of the Denver Broncos as San Francisco clinched home-field advantage throughout the

playoffs on Saturday with their 10th consecutive win.

Ricky Watters caught two

of Young's scoring passes and

ran for a touchdown and William Floyd ran for two more TDs as the 49ers ran their record to a league-best 13-2.

A host of 49ers offensive records were equalled or bettered with the pummeling of the Broncos that virtually eliminated Denver (7-8) from playoff contention.

Young, who completed 20 of 29 passes, broke Joe Montana's 1989 team record of 31 touchdown passes in a season with his first scoring strike of the day. His fifth game of at least 300 yards passing this season tied a club record set four times by Montana.

During the 49ers' winning streak, Young has thrown 25 touchdown passes.

With one game left in the regular season, the 49ers have scored a team-record 491 points and tied a club mark with their 64th touchdown of the season.

Jerry Rice, who caught nine passes for 121 yards, improved his season totals to 107 receptions for a league-high 1,466 yards. He broke his own single-season club mark of 100 receptions set in 1990, becoming only the second player in NFL history to record two seasons of at least 100 receptions.

The Niners wasted little time, jumping out to a 14-0 lead in the first 5:46 of the game and they led 21-0 before Denver managed the first of two second-quarter field goals.

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Gatien wins table tennis World Cup final

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Juventus' Roberto Baggio (right) holds the during the ceremony in which he was named award, which was presented to him by Spanish the "best European Soccer Player" (AFP sports journalist Jose Maria Garcia (left) photo)

LONDON (AFP) — Blackburn extended their lead at the top of the English Premiership on Saturday despite being held to a goalless draw at lowly Leicester as Manchester United's unbeaten home record in the league was brought to an end by Nottingham Forest.

Stan Collymore — reportedly a transfer target for United — and former England captain Stuart Pearce did the damage in a 1-1 Forest victory that ended United's run of 12 consecutive home clean sheets.

The goals were the first that the champions have conceded at Old Trafford in 1,100 minutes of play since April.

Collymore scored his second goal against the Reds this season to give Forest the lead after 35 minutes with a superb 20-yard shot.

Jordan Times
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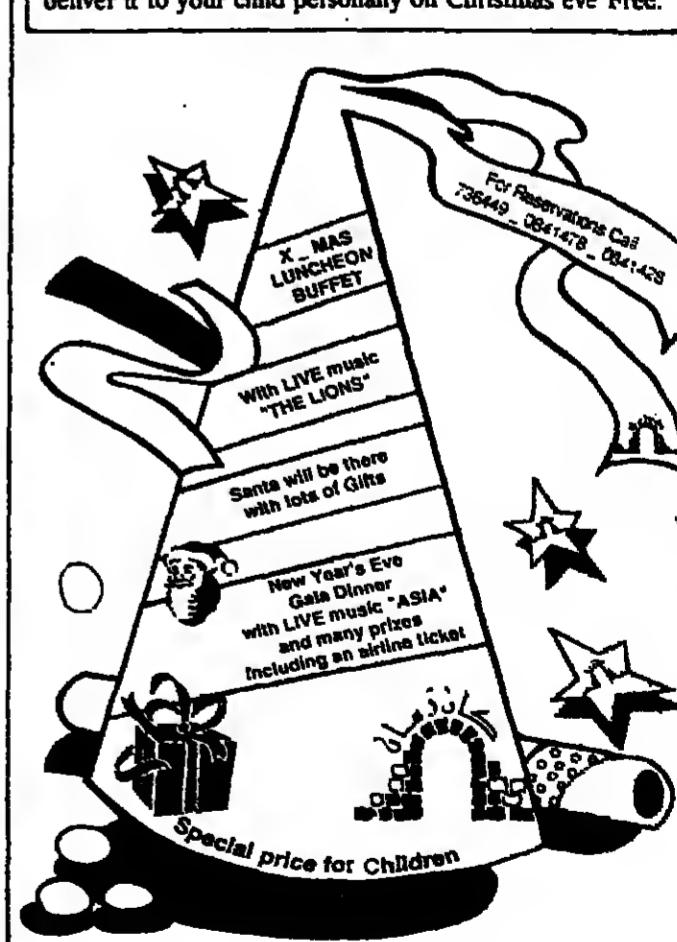
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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1994 11

Abu Qoura wins season-ending rally tour

By Rofan Nahas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After a steamy start on a cold December morning, Mohammad Abu Qoura and co-driver Burhan Abu Qoura drove their Mitsubishi Galant to victory Friday in the Zanussi Rally Tour organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

Mu'taz Al Masri and co-driver Mazen Al Kotob in a Volvo 240 came in second, followed by Paris Bustami and Raed Wakileh in a Nissan 180 KGT in third place.

The event was the last on RACJ's schedule for the season, 22 participants registered, but only 18 set off from the club's headquarters at 9:45 a.m. driving a total distance of 300km on two stages to return to the starting point.

At the start, Tarek Madi and co-driver Wisam Bakir in a Mitsubishi Galant GLX took the lead keeping Bassam Tarazi, Moutaz Masri and Mohammad Abu Qoura behind.

Abu Qoura snatched the lead in the second stage to win first place with total penalties of 00:01:14.

Mu'taz Al Masri took second position from Bassam Tarazi with total

penalties of 00:01:22.

Bassam Tarazi finished sixth leaving third place to Paris Bustami and Raed Wakileh with total penalties of 00:01:34.

Tarek Taba's who led the season's rally tour withdrew from the competition in the first stage.

After this event RACJ ended Jordan's autosports season by honouring the top drivers' to the prize-giving ceremony when the final result of the rally tour were announced late Saturday evening.

Here are the rankings of Jordan's Drivers Open Championship for the season after Friday's result:

- 1) Bassam Bustami, (186 points)
- 2) Ahmad Danod (144.5 points)
- 3) Fares Bustami (119.5 points)
- 4) Amar Hijazi (112 points)

"The Rally Tours provide a great opportunity for new drivers to enter the competition," said Muneir Moasher, who participated with Ali Al Obeidi in a Nissan NX and finished 10th. "We need more practice and it is an unequal competition as some drivers own 'Tune masters' which can help them in their calculations," he told the Jordan Times.

CYCLING 1994

Indurain, Lemond in opposite directions

PARIS (AP) — The first few days of December had the two cyclists that dominated the last six years heading in different directions.

On Dec. 1, Miguel Indurain began his training for a record fifth consecutive Tour de France title. It's a tradition for the Spaniard to get back on his bike the first day of December, something he has done since 1984.

A few days later Greg Lemond, who dominated the sport before Indurain rode to power, announced his retirement from competition. Since 1984 he has made his presence felt in the Tour de France, whether by winning or dropping out.

Lemond said he had a rare muscular disease, mitochondrial myopathy, which sapped his strength the past three seasons. The 33-year-old American said he made his decision after considering the results of months of testing.

Between them, Lemond and Indurain had won every Tour de France since 1989. At one time, Lemond had a record of three victories, a second and a third in his first six Tours de France. A 1987 shooting accident kept him

sidelined for most of two seasons. He returned in 1989 to win by eight seconds in the closest finish of the race's history.

Lemond won again in 1990 but he faltered while in the lead in 1991 and faded to seventh as Indurain won. Lemond never finished another Tour, dropping out in 1992 and 1994 while not starting in 1993.

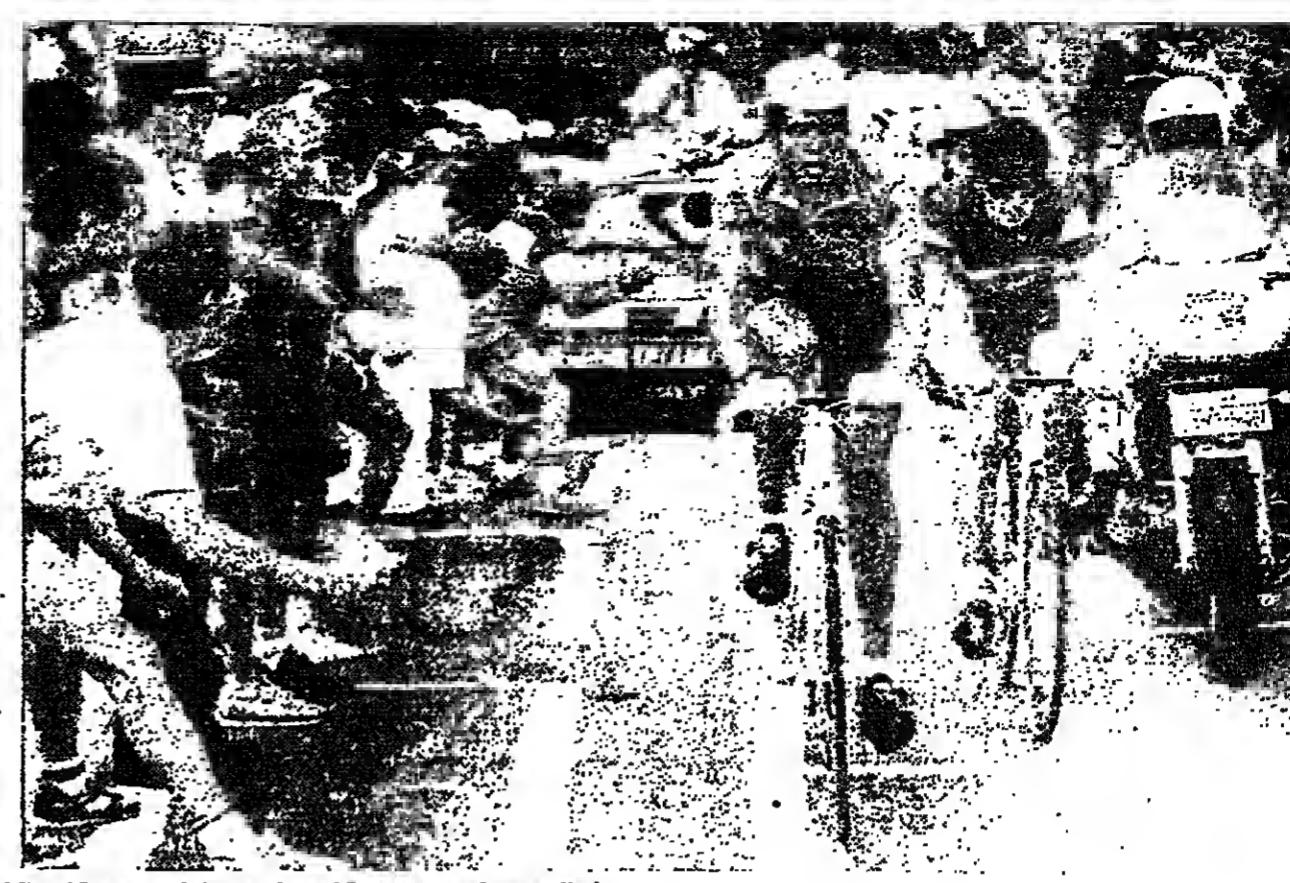
Indurain, meanwhile, has been winning his tours by larger margins every year since 1991.

His dominance of this year's race came within a four-day period of this year's loop. One-by-one his past, present and, perhaps, future rivals dropped out.

Italy's Claudio Chiappucci and Gianni Bugno, who traded steps on the winner's podium in 1991 and 1992, went out.

Tony Rominger of Switzerland, who was Indurain's biggest challenger after a second in 1993, dropped out. An intestinal virus was the major reason but his morale was broken by not being able to keep up with Indurain.

Lance Armstrong, who was expected to replace Lemond as the top American after his victory in the 1993 world professional championships, also stopped, not wanting to test himself in the



Miguel Indurain (left) and Gianni Bugno struggle up a climb

mountains for the second consecutive year.

Meanwhile Indurain kept riding on, making this year's race exciting only in the battle for second place. Russian Piotr Ugrumov came in second this year but was far from Indurain's level.

Others may get the world titles, such as Luc Leblanc of France. Rominger may get the top ranking of the World Cycling Federation for the entire year as well as the world's one-hour record and third consecutive Tour of Spain.

But the one title they all want to win is the one that Indurain has had for the last four years. No one is betting against him at the moment in his drive for five.

Bernard Hinault and Jacques Anquetil of France and Eddy Merckx of Belgium each have five tour titles but not in consecutive years.

Lemond could have joined them if he had stayed healthy. After his victory in 1990, few people were betting against him.

However he declined in the following years but will be long remembered as the rider who made the United States notice European cycling.

"Greg was the first, he went to a European sport and brought an American attitude and American personality to it," Armstrong said.

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* K 9 5
* 10 5
* 4 K Q J 5 2
The bidding: South West, North East

1 NT 2 ♠ 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♦

This hand we dealt in a World Championship match some years ago. One declarer succeeded in making the no-trump game; one did not. In our opinion, neither found the best line.

At the other table South chose to stake all on the diamond suit. Here the diamond ten was run at trick two and all was well—nine tricks made.

Both declarers were on the right track. However, they should have combined chances. We think declarer should win the first trick and play on diamonds, but by cashing the ace-king rather than banking everything on the finesse. If the queen drops, then that's fine; if her majesty doesn't appear, declarer fails to cash clubs.

The contract will make if West has the ace because declarer still has a positional stopper in hearts.

West led the fourth-best heart and declarer could not come to nine tricks without developing one of the minors. At one table South decided West probably had the ace of clubs

to intervene, so after winning the queen of hearts with the king at trick two, the king of clubs was led. East grabbed the ace and reverted to hearts—down two.

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The league now takes a

break until January 7. Four days later youthful Nantes extended their unbeaten run to 22 matches by winning 2-0 at Caen Saturday to stay two points clear of Champions Paris St. Germain.

Nantes took the lead at Caen in the 24th minute thanks to Chadiao striker Jephet N'Doram. Caen defender Emmanuel Rival put the issue beyond doubt by scoring an own goal under pressure from international Nicolas Ouedec in the 67th minute.

"One would expect the players to be tired by they're still going strong."

Paris looked sluggish against Strasbourg after expending considerable energy on the European front. They won all their six Champions League matches to reach the European Cup quarter-finals in grand style.

"We have played more matches than any other team and the players definitely need some holidays," the Paris club's deputy chairman Michel Denisot said. "But our goal is still to retain our title and I really believe we can make it."

A goalless home drew against Bastia allowed Lyon to move up one place to third ahead of Cannes, who lost 3-2 at Metz.

Monaco, badly needing points to book a place in Europe, looked set to win at Auxerre after Youri Djorkaeff scored twice in the first nine minutes.

But Auxerre fought back in the second half to force a draw with goals by Moussa Sahib and Pascal Vahiru.

Monaco, hampered by a string of injuries, are a disappointing 11th, 18 points behind Nantes.

Struggling Sochaux dropped to last place by losing 1-0 at Lille. Caen and Montpellier are on 18 points alongside Sochaux but have a better goal difference.

Nantes extend unbeaten run with away win

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Christmas 94 calendar of events

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

19
Children's Party

HO HO HO...
On December 19th from 4 to 6 p.m. a special party will be held for the children with Santa Claus and his gifts JD 7.000 inclusive

17 Come and take Christmas souvenir pictures with Santa in the lobby, for you and your children from 4 to 6 p.m. as of December 17th - 24th.

18 Daily Carols Choir singing daily carols from 5 to 6 p.m. in the lobby as of December 18th - 24th.

24 From The Pastry Shop Order your Buche de Noel, Christmas Cookies, and Christmas Desserts. Extension # 2032.

25 Catch the Christmas spirit with candle lights and hot drinks. A Delicious Christmas Eve Dinner will be served plated at AL WALIMA and AL MANSAF for JD 15.000++

31 Celebrate New Year's Eve and have a Dinner Buffet at AL MANSAF Restaurant for JD 30.000++

95 Celebrations continue with New Year's Morning Early Breakfast from 3 a.m. to 10 a.m. for JD 6.000++

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ماريوت

2 killed in Bahrain violence

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Two young Bahrainis were killed Sunday in dawn clashes in a Muslim Shiite village in the worst violence since riots erupted a week ago in the Gulf states, witnesses said. Police for the first time used helicopters to try to break up the crowd in the village of Sanabas, west of Manama, and also fired tear-gas and rubber bullets, the witnesses contacted by the AFP from Nicosia said.

Fighting also raged overnight in other Shiite villages, they said. "Inhabitants were literally ordered to stay at home and lock the doors," one witness said.

Tensions were also said to be running high in the capital Manama, where the riots erupted last Monday to demand the release of Shiite Muslim leader Sheikh Ali Salman.

Police vehicles were posted at the city's strategic points, and especially near the hotel where the 15th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is due open Monday.

Earlier Sunday, Bahrain for the first time admitted there were "troubles" to the country in which a policeman had been killed, others wounded and damage caused.

A statement from the Interior Ministry acknowledged the rioters were demanding the release of Sheikh Salman arrested after calling for the restoration of parliament which was dissolved in 1975.

It added that security forces had the situation under control and would do everything to restore law and order.

And it blamed the violence on a plot engineered from abroad.

A London-based dissident group, the Bahrain Freedom Movement, said on Friday that hundreds had been arrested for demanding the recall of parliament and the release of political prisoners.

Official sources in Bahrain said the protests during this week's Bahrain national day celebrations and ahead of Monday's GCC summit here were limited and life and business in the island was unaffected.

The authorities "are in control of the situation and will take the necessary measures to bring back order and security," said the statement released overnight by the official agency GNA and received in Dubai.

"From the start these incidents have not been spontaneous but have been planned and accompanied by a propaganda campaign from abroad," it added.

According to the statement, the "troubles" broke out on the same day as Sheikh Salman's arrest and have "continued almost daily."

Sheikh Salman who "returned two years ago from a long stay abroad" had been arrested for his involvement in an incident in Manama in November.

"A group of individuals, including some who were masked and armed with batons attacked and threw stones at participants in an annual marathon," on Nov. 25 in Manama, the statement said.

Security forces intervened and two of them were wounded while a vehicle was damaged. "The demonstrators were dispersed and 12 of them arrested," it added.

In questioning Sheikh Salman "confirmed he had himself planned" the incident.

After his arrest "his assistants and supporters gathered in the (Shiite-Muslim dominated) towns of Bilad Al Qadiim and Al Khaniim," near Manama.

"Armed, with batons, stones and blunt instruments they threatened passers-by, committing acts of vandalism, cutting off roads and attacking security forces," the statement added.

"These incidents were repeated almost daily, causing a number of wounded among the police and material damage," the statement added.

Majali urges West to aid PNA Czech minister holds wide-ranging talks in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday urged Western countries to provide the Palestine National Authority (PNA) with the promised funds to help it establish and enhance its rule and build the required infrastructure for socio-economic development.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Vladimir Dlouhy, Dr. Majali noted that the West had promised to provide funds to the PNA not only to pay the salaries of its employees and police force but also to build infrastructure.

He said the donors should also stop throwing suspicion on the PNA's ability to handle its affairs.

The prime minister said Jordan was keen on promoting its cooperation with the Czech Republic.

He also expressed Jordan's desire to enter trade agreements with the Czech Republic and to increase the exchanges of visits by officials and businessmen to discuss cooperation in developing agriculture and natural resources in Jordan.

Dr. Dlouhy voiced his country's support for the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, and said Jordan enjoys very good reputation worldwide making it eligible for invest-



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday meets with a delegation from the Czech Republic (Petra photo)

ments and the focus of attention.

The Czech official met later with Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Israheil and discussed prospects for joint Czech-Jordanian ventures in water resources.

Mr. Israheil briefed the Czech official on irrigation and water projects in the Kingdom.

Dr. Rima Khalaf, minister of industry and trade, met also with Dr. Dlouhy and a

team accompanying him and discussed prospects for launching joint industrial ventures like glass, home appliances, and engineering industries, and in tourism.

Dr. Khalaf briefed the minister on Jordan's laws on encouraging investments in Jordan.

The Czech minister also held a meeting with Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif to discuss exchanges of agricultural tools and the sale

of Jordanian produce to the Czech Republic in winter.

Discussion over prospects for Czech-Jordanian cooperation in energy related affairs were discussed by Dr. Dlouhy and the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources.

The two ministers explored the prospect of joint ventures to exploit oil shale which is found in abundance in the Kingdom and cooperation in geological studies.

Definite agreements on cooperation next year, Czech minister says

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and the Czech Republic will enter agreements on trade, protection of investment and taxation next year, Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Vladimir Dlouhy said Sunday.

Addressing a press conference, Dr. Dlouhy described the talks he held with Minister of Trade and Industry Jimena Khalaf as "very profound" that produced "tangible" results.

"Agreements on trade, mutual protection of investment and avoidance of double taxation will be concluded next year," he said.

Dr. Dlouhy said that he had come to Amman to improve Jordanian-Czech relations and to promote the Czech Republic.

On trade exchange, the balance of which is currently in favour of the Czech Republic, he said that the Czech private sector was still not capable of direct investment, but many firms would be able to participate in long term investments.

Dr. Dlouhy affirmed that his talks here were part of a larger strategy for Czech involvement in the Middle East region.

meetings here were "intensive and successful."

In response to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali's call for Western aid to the Palestine National Authority (PNA) (see story above), Dr. Dlouhy said he hoped the Czech Republic would be able to provide support.

"We hope to be involved in the construction of infrastructure in the occupied territories," he said.

Dr. Dlouhy said that he had come to Amman to improve Jordanian-Czech relations and to promote the Czech Republic.

Regarding energy and industry, he said that the Czech Republic had proposed tenders for power-generation projects, in particular the planned expansion in Aqaba and in general the further development of electricity production/network.

"I believe that the tender bid for the Aqaba project will be successful," Dr. Dlouhy asserted.

encouraged to participate in joint ventures."

In addition, he said, he hoped for increased exports of Jordanian produce to the republic and increased imports of Czech agricultural machinery to the Kingdom.

Dr. Dlouhy said that the Czech Republic recognised the issue of water as important and strategic. He added that the Czech Republic is very active in the production of irrigation equipment.

Regarding energy and industry, he said that the Czech Republic had proposed tenders for power-generation projects, in particular the planned expansion in Aqaba and in general the further development of electricity production/network.

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Kouchner may seek presidency

PARIS (AFP) — Former French Health Minister Bernard Kouchner, best known for trouble-shooting in hot-spots across the world, said on Sunday he might be a candidate in presidential elections due next April-May.

Mr. Kouchner, who heads the health and humanitarian affairs portfolio in the former socialist government, said he had not yet made up his mind, but "tomorrow we shall see."

Mr. Kouchner, founder of the medical aid charity Médecins Sans Frontières, was elected to the European Parliament last June on the Socialist party ticket, but is not a party member. He made an international reputation with a series of spectacular relief missions, notably to Somalia and Bosnia.

5,000 dead in revolt in 1994 — Ankara

ANKARA (AFP) — The conflict between the Turkish state and Kurdish separatists cost 5,130 lives between Jan. 1 and Oct. 13, official figures showed Sunday. Officials were quoted by the Anatolia news agency as saying 3,430 Kurdish rebels died, 893 members of the Turkish security forces and 807 civilians. It said that all the civilians, who included 69 women and 75 children, were killed by Kurdish separatists.

Carter in Sarajevo on peace mission

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter flew to Sarajevo on Sunday to launch a freelance peace mission in Bosnia, tackling a conflict that has daunted seasoned mediators before him.

"My hope is to contribute in a small way to peace and the protection of human rights, to the alleviation of tension in Bosnia," Mr. Carter said.

"I think there are possibilities for optimism but it is too early for me to say," he told reporters in Zagreb before boarding a U.N. military flight to the besieged Bosnian capital.

Mr. Carter spoke during a stopover in Croatia for consultations with the U.N. Protection Force, President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and U.S. Ambassador Peter Galbraith.

He departed for Sarajevo later on Sunday to meet leaders of the mostly Muslim Bosnian government and its war enemy, the Bosnian Serbs who invited the ex-president to try to mediate an end to the intractable 32-month conflict.

He was due to see Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Monday.

Mr. Carter hoped later to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, grand master of the Bosnian Serbs' separatist war until he cut them off last summer, in a planned trip to Belgrade.

The former Democratic president was accompanied by his wife, Rosalynn, and two of his own negotiators.

White House officials urged Mr. Carter to avoid new initiatives and seek acceptance of a peace plan drawn up by a big power "contact group" comprising the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Rus-

sia.

It has been approved by Muslims and Croats but rejected by Serbs, who would have to cede a third of the 70 per cent of the country they now hold after nearly three years of war.

The Carter mission drew an initial negative reaction by Bosnian government.

But Bosnian Premier Silajdzic softened the Bosnian stance when he met Mr. Carter Sunday in Zagreb.

Mr. Silajdzic said Sunday before his meeting with Mr. Carter: "If Mr. Carter succeeds in getting the Bosnian Serbs to accept the contact group's peace plan, his mediation will be welcome."

His enmity was in marked contrast to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic's remark Friday that the trip would be a "waste of time" if Mr. Carter tried to change the contact group's take-it-or-leave-it partition plan.

Mr. Carter's arrival in Sarajevo also implied that he is satisfied that the Bosnian Serbs have carried through his plan to ease relations with the U.N. Protection Force in Sarajevo.

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The kidnappers told an AFP reporter who visited Mr. Rudy in a south Mogadishu suburb late Saturday that they would treat him well.

Mr. Rudy, who arrived in Mogadishu six months ago, was in good health. He said the incident for which the kidnappers were demanding compensation happened before he arrived in Somalia.

The abductors said they were not terrorists but had decided to take action to force AICF to open negotiations with them, because the group ignored their earlier requests for compensation.

Mr. Carter, 70, was president from 1977 to 1981 and

Somali gunmen demand ransom

MOGADISHU (AFP) — A group of Somali gunmen who took a French aid worker hostage have demanded compensation for two Somalis killed by bandits on June 15, claiming they were working at the time for the same agency.

Mr. Rudy, 24, a relief coordinator with International Action Against Hunger, was kidnapped by French acrobats.

AICF was abducted while driving along the airport road in the south of Mogadishu on Saturday.

The hostage takers said they wanted AICF to pay compensation for its two Somalis killed by bandits on June 15, claiming they were working at the time for the same agency.

Mr. Rudy was held captive for 11 days after he was taken by bandits.

He was released on Dec. 7 after being freed by a group of Somalis who had been held captive for 11 days.

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Princess Basma, Belgian deputy review interaction in women-related issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Sunday received Belgian parliament member Anne Marie Lizon and discussed with her means of enhancing Jordanian-Belgian cooperation in issues related to women.

Princess Basma briefed Mrs. Lizon on Jordanian women's achievements and the importance of women's socio-economic and health conditions and provided information on women's causes.

The Princess reviewed with Mrs. Lizon preparations for the fourth world conference on women to be held in Beijing and explained the outcome of related Arab meetings held in Amman in November.

Mrs. Lizon stressed Jordan's important role in the region and assured Princess Basma of her country's continuous cooperation and support for Jordan.

Also on Sunday, Princess Basma received the president and members of the Global Commission on Women's Health and was briefed on the committee's objectives and goals.

The commission, an advisory body to the World Health Organization (WHO), was established in 1992 under a World Health Assembly

(WHA) resolution. The commission groups eminent personalities from a broad range of disciplines, including political, scientific and professional leaders from various parts of the world.

The commission's terms of reference include producing an agenda for action on women's health, supplying decision-makers with data on women's socio-economic and health conditions and providing a forum for consultation and dialogue with women's organisations and other groups concerned with women's causes.

Princess Basma accepted to serve as a member of the commission in response to an invitation extended to her by WHO Director General Hiroshi Nakajima. Princess Basma relayed her acceptance to join the commission's membership in a letter sent to Dr. Nakajima early this month.

The president and members of the commission stressed the importance of placing women's health high on the development agenda and called for including it on the agenda of the world summit for social development which will be held in Copenhagen in March and the Beijing conference on women.

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